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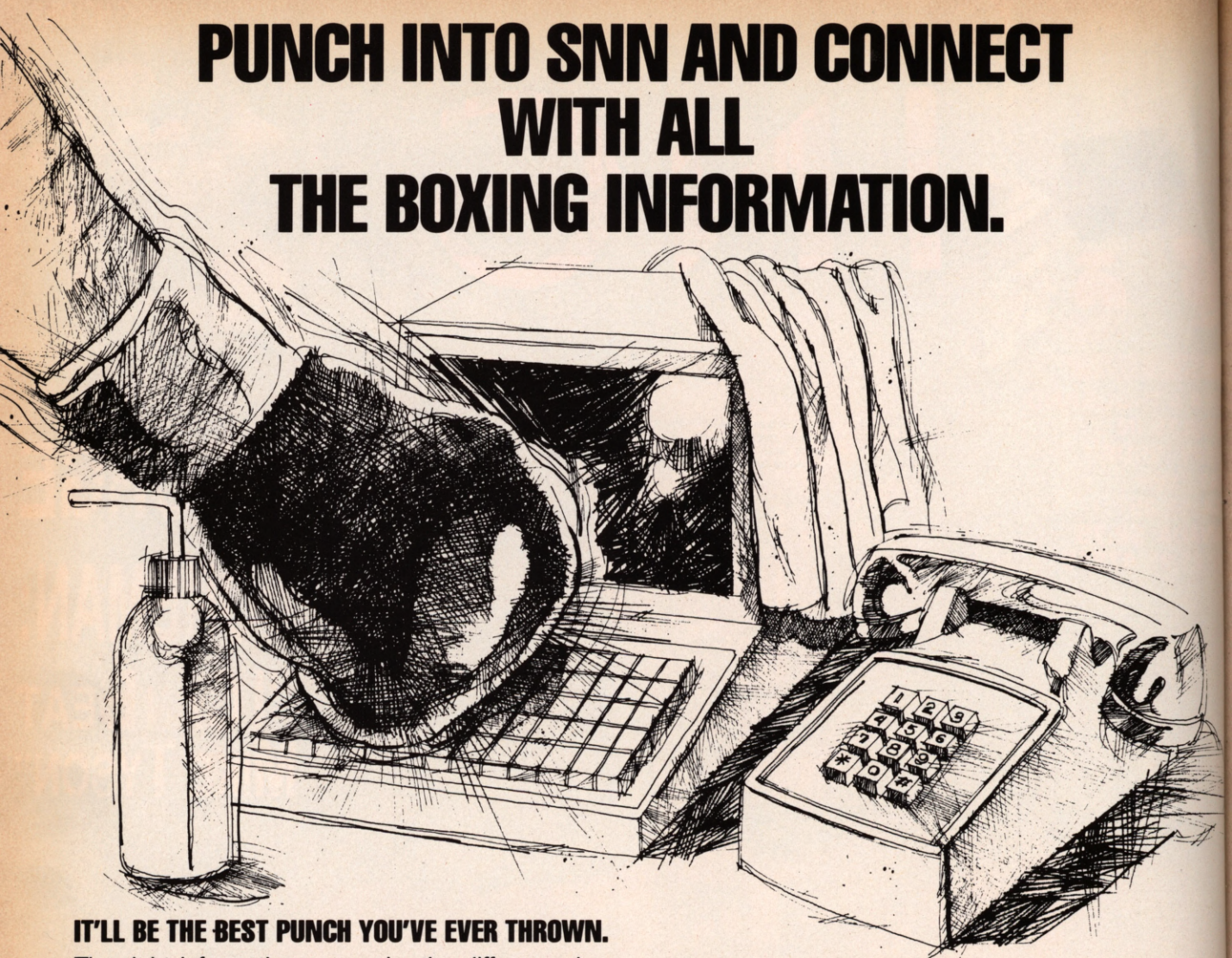

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The RING

The bible of boxing

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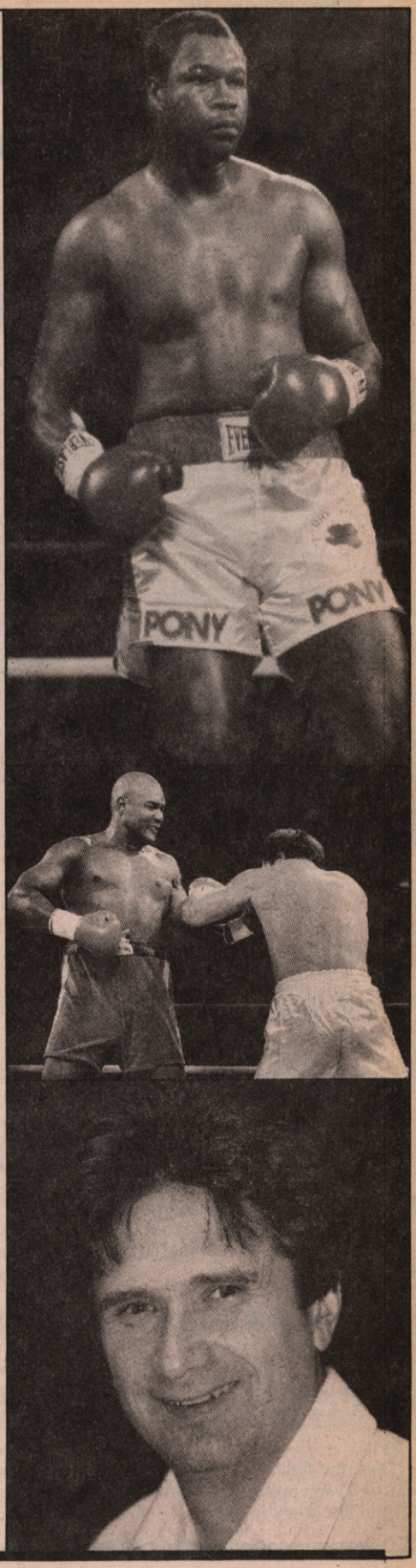

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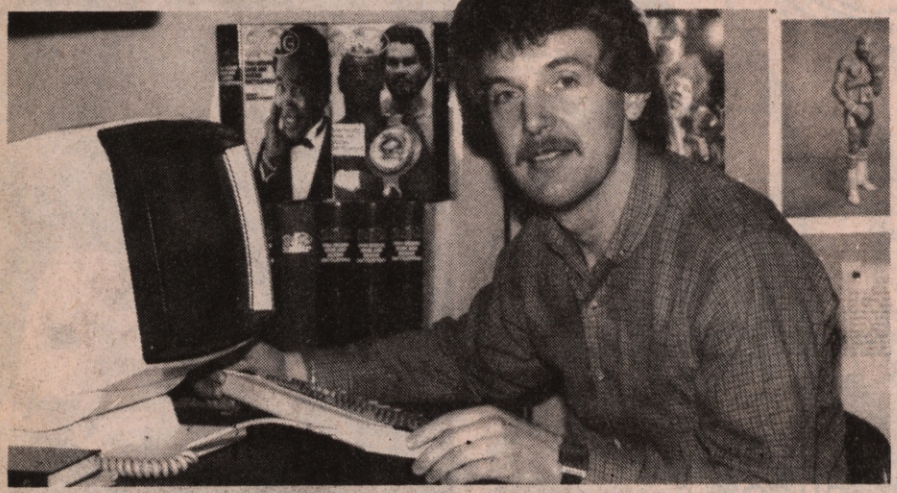

NEWS ITEM: "TYSON AND SPINKS AGREE TO TERMS"

Whew! Am I glad that's finally over with.

As regular readers know, *The Ring* has been steadfast in its recognition of Michael Spinks as the legitimate heavyweight champion of the world. This hasn't been the most popular stance this magazine has ever taken, but I'm glad we stuck to our guns. Right is right, regardless of how uncomfortable it makes you feel at times. Spinks won the title in the ring by beating Larry Holmes and now Mike Tyson has his chance to win the title in the ring by beating Michael Spinks. And that's the way it should be.

While *The Ring's* position has been clearcut, many readers seem to have misunderstood our reason for withholding recognition from Tyson. Allow me to clarify a few misconceptions.

First, *The Ring* has no ax to grind. We have nothing against Tyson (or any other boxer) as some readers have suggested. On the contrary, we think he's the best thing to happen to boxing since Sugar Ray Leonard rekindled the public's sagging interest in the sport following the decline of Muhammad Ali.

Other readers don't understand how we can recognize Spinks as heavyweight champion when he doesn't hold one of the Alphabet belts. The fact is, *The Ring* couldn't care less about the IBF, WBA or WBC trinkets. The only title which really counts is the WORLD title.

Finally, just because *The Ring* recognizes Spinks as the genuine champion doesn't necessarily mean we think he's the best heavyweight in the world. If the champion was always the best fighter in his division, no title would ever change hands.

The heavyweight championship is bigger than any boxer who ever held it. It is the most valuable prize in sports. If we want to keep it that way, matters of fistic supremacy must continue to be settled in honorable combat. Sometimes it takes awhile to bring the parties together, but, for the sake of boxing, it's always worth the wait.

Nigel Collins

P.S.
Yes, the fight we've all been waiting for is on the way and *The Ring* will be previewing the Tyson-Spinks showdown with a special July '88 issue. Look for it on your newsstands the last week in May.

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Come Out Writing

Reader Paul Lazzati isn't exactly the biggest Vinny Paz fan in the world. See "Paz Panned" for details.

PHOTO BY MARC MORRISON

SPINKS-TYSON FEUD REACHING BOILING POINT WITH RING READERS

I'M TIRED OF THE LAME EXCUSES Mike Tyson's managers have come up with regarding their refusal to fight Michael Spinks. They claim Tyson is too busy to include Spinks and Butch Lewis' $10 million offer in Tyson's plans for '88. If Tyson really wants to fight every 10 weeks, there's no reason they can't include the "People's Champion" in their agenda.

Tyson's people are worried sick about fighting the crafty Spinks. So instead, "Ironless Mike" will blow away second-raters such as Tony Tubbs, glass-jawed Carl Williams and 38-year-old Larry Holmes. Come on Tyson, you claim you're the best fighter on the planet. So, prove it. Fight Michael Spinks. It's the one fight the public is demanding ... and demanding now!

ROBERT SABATINI
Pacific Beach, CA

I MUST VIEW WITH ANGER AND DISmay your otherwise excellent publication's decision not to rate Mike Tyson as heavyweight champion. What more can he do to get universal acclaim? Mike Spinks lost whatever claim he had to the world title when he was stripped of his IBF title.

Spinks, I grant, is an enigma. But has he really fought at heavyweight? He beat an aging Larry Holmes (both questionable decisions) and the mighty (joke) Steffan Tangstad. His best performance was over a ring rusty Gerry Cooney.

Tyson has fought all the "live" heavyweights and recorded some sensational victories. Tyson is the true champion and all fight fans should recognize this and support his case.

I only hope Spinks is man enough to fight Tyson. But don't blink if the fight occurs, as Tyson will annihilate the very ordinary Spinks. I, for one, can't wait.

M. DAVIDSON
Cardiff, South Wales

Editor's Note: Despite their differences of opinion, both Mr. Sabatini and Mr. Davidson really want the same thing: a Tyson-Spinks match. *The Ring* couldn't agree more.

BOXING NO PLACE FOR RACISM

BOXING SHOULD TRANSCEND RACism. Whenever I see racism — black versus white, Cooney versus Holmes — it upsets me and I don't understand it. Boxing is the only sport where the black man has made it to the top — as executive and promoter, as well as participant. Hispanics are running world class boxing organizations. Baseball, football and basketball have very few minorities at the top rung. Why must the hype for major

bouts include emphasizing black versus white?

I don't see color in the ring. I am white, but when I watch Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Roberto Duran, Evander Holyfield or Julio Cesar Chavez, I don't see a black man or Hispanic man, I see warriors. Stripped down to their loin cloths, they are fully exposed to the world. Their ferocity, skill, heart and class are evident for all to see. We should admire these men for taking us back to a time when men were warriors and hunters, and not feel that racism needs to be injected to insure the marketability of a prizefight.

When I was a kid growing up in Brooklyn, I had two main heroes — Jackie Robinson and Joe Louis. They were champions to me. Not black champions, but my own personal champions. And I cried the night Rocky Marciano knocked out Louis.

I think we should get back to appreciating boxing for what it is: man-to-man, hand-to-hand combat which exposes the abilities and faults of two brave warriors. Let's leave racial and ethnic overtones back in the Dark Ages where they belong.

MATTHEW KLEIN
Weatogue, CT

PAZ PANNED

I AM RESPONDING TO SAMUEL ROMANell's letter boasting the talents of Vinny Pazienza in your February '88 issue. I have to wonder, did Mr. Romanell drink too much eggnog, or is he one of Vinny's groupies living in Connecticut? Despite the fact Vinny is a mediocre boxer with more charm than ability, Mr. Romanell claims Pazienza is "like Ali," will beat Ramirez and Rosario, and will be "the greatest lightweight ever."

I guess Roberto Duran and Henry Armstrong were just ordinary club fighters, huh? Hey Sam, why don't you look up "talent" in the dictionary or take some "reality" pills? Vinny is just an over-protected hype job with a blown up ego.

PAUL LAZZATI
Boring, MD

READER WANTS FOREMAN VS. TYSON

I THINK THAT A MIKE TYSON-GEORGE Foreman bout would be a great one for the few rounds it would last. Both have the raw power which would mean action. Foreman looks like he's fought himself into the same shape he was in when he put away Joe Frazier. A Tyson-Foreman match would be much more than just an Age vs. Youth contest. It would be short and sweet and just the sort of bout the Sweet Science needs to revive interest in the sport.

EDDIE LARKIN
Newark, NJ

READER DEFENDS THE RING

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DEFENSIVE response on *The Ring*'s behalf (if I may) to the utterly ridiculous article written by *Boxing Scene*'s Michael Marley titled "Why Slumping Ring Magazine Came Up With A Bad Decision." Please allow me to dissect and criticize his article.

In his first paragraph, Marley states that *The Ring* has KO'd all of the junior weight classes from its rankings. That's true on *The Ring*'s part, but within the pages of *The Ring* magazine there are still the rankings of the WBC, IBF, WBA, USBA, NABF, European, Latin American and Oriental ratings. Does *Boxing Scene* do that?

In his second paragraph, he states that most countries don't notice the ratings change in *The Ring*. Then why have I read numerous letters in *The Ring* from African, European, Latin and Oriental countries praising *The Ring* for its decision? And in the U.S. some of the most influential people involved in boxing gave high praise to *The Ring*, including *Sports Illustrated*. Tell me, Mr. Marley, who pays attention to what you or anyone else writes in *Boxing Scene*? (A magazine I bought once, wished I didn't and threw away.)

In his next five paragraphs, he states that *The Ring* only rates 80 fighters a month as opposed to nearly 800 rated by the three governing bodies. Most of what he says is a bunch of mumble-jumble, empty words and meaningless figures. If everyone in boxing thought like Mr. Marley, we'd have 10 champions in every division, hundreds of contenders and about 20 more divisions.

Mr. Marley also writes that *The Ring* suffers because the ratings in the August issue are dated May 4. I think Mr. Marley failed to realize his own magazine still had Tony Tucker as the IBF heavyweight champion in its December issue; and they had already covered the Tyson-Biggs fight!

Finally, in his last two disgusting paragraphs, Mr. Marley writes the following: "Clearly, *The Ring*'s days as the boxing 'bible' have long passed. *The Ring* is drowning. It's yelling and screaming. Do the editors realize that no one in boxing is listening?"

Well, I wonder if Mr. Marley is listening right now? The statements in his article are so ridiculous I'm laughing my head off at them. Who does he think he is making such stupid accusations? Doesn't he realize he writes for one of the worst boxing publications that exists? Boring, amateurish and a waste of money is how I describe *Boxing Scene*.

Boxing Scene is a joke, and Michael Marley is an even bigger joke.

SHANE A. LAEMMELL
Hialeah Gardens, Florida

Editor's Note: Mr. Marley, a former contributor to *The Ring*, was informed his services were no longer desired by this publication. Perhaps that has something to do with his "sour grapes" attitude.

HOLMES HATER TURNS FAN AT FINAL MOMENT

AS I HUNCHED DOWN INTO MY SEAT to watch the Tyson-Holmes fight, I sat contented to watch "Iron Mike" destroy Larry Holmes. I was fully in Tyson's corner. After years of listening to Holmes badmouth every opponent (and the sport of boxing), I wanted to see him get what I felt he deserved.

But as I watched Holmes being devastated in Round Four, something inside me clicked. I realized that after all of the battles in which I'd rooted against him, I had developed a deep respect for him as a fighter. Holmes was undoubtedly a great fighter, the premier heavyweight of his time. I believe Holmes in his prime would have dealt with the Tyson we saw beat him that night. It was so sad to see a great fighter get beat like that. I know it happens to everyone from Jack Johnson to Joe Louis to Muhammad Ali. But deep down we all know the greats deserved better.

DAVE COLLINS
Colorado Springs, CO

Round One

By Phill Marder

HBOOOO

First, let's give credit where credit's due. The HBO telecast of the Mike Tyson-Larry Holmes fight was brilliant from a visual standpoint, almost as brilliant as Tyson's performance.

But the announcing and the graphics were not only misleading, but in some cases bordered on downright false advertising.

This is particularly disturbing in the case of **Larry Merchant,** who was one of my favorite writers when I was just a young twerp. Now that I'm an old twerp, Merchant seems to have hooked on to Tyson's coat tails as **Howard Cosell** did with Muhammad Ali. Now it's all fine and good if Merchant thinks Tyson is the best heavyweight in the world. We at *The Ring* are inclined to agree with him. But that's no excuse to insult the intelligence of the boxing public.

At least eight times during the telecast, Tyson was referred to as "the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world." *The Ring* recognizes that Tyson holds the WBC, WBA and IBF belts, but he certainly is far from being "the undisputed heavyweight champion," at least until he beats Michael Spinks, whose claim in many eyes is more valid than Tyson's. Spinks ruined HBO's unification tournament by bolting, and the upcoming Spinks-Tyson fight is too big for home TV, so the cable network reacts by pretending Spinks doesn't exist, re-writing boxing history to suit its own needs in the process.

Merchant kept harping on "the passing of the torch ceremony from the old king to the new king." What torch did Holmes have to pass? Didn't he already pass it to Spinks? He must have because HBO showed clips of Spinks beating Holmes twice.

In one sentence HBO told us that Holmes ruled the heavyweight division for 7½ years. In the next breath, we're being told of four or five other "world heavyweight champions" who ruled at the same time! One more time, "the champion of the world" is singular — that means one at a time. So who was champion, guys — Holmes or Bonecrusher Smith, or Tim Witherspoon, or Tony Tubbs, or Trevor Berbick, or Pinklon Thomas, or Tony Tucker?

But even if HBO expects us to tolerate such doubletalk, there is no excuse for misinforming the public. The Tyson-Holmes fight, a 12-round affair, was not sanctioned by the IBF. Therefore, it was not a fight for the "undisputed heavyweight championship" even if you accept the Alphabet Boys as boxing's rulers. Not once did HBO mention, verbally or graphically, that this fight was for just two of the three titles. And what would have happened to HBO's so-called undisputed championship if Holmes had won? He wouldn't have held the IBF crown, and we'd be right back where we started.

Holmes, interviewed by **Sugar Ray Leonard** in perhaps the best verbal segment of the production, answered that hypothetical question by saying, "If I'd won the title tonight, I would have thrown them other belts away because it didn't really mean anything. I support the WBC."

While Leonard's interview with Holmes was fine, Sugar Ray did commit one major blunder when Holmes was slow to make his entrance to the ring.

"I just heard something," said Leonard. "We got a report that Mike Tyson was so upset because of the stalling of Larry Holmes, he punched a hole in the wall of his dressing room. Can you believe that? Is that anger or what?"

And Barry Tompkins followed it right up, exclaiming, "Mike Tyson is getting angrier and angrier." When Tyson entered the ring, Tompkins said, "There is a look at an angry young man."

But when Merchant quizzed Tyson after the fight in what was a disastrous post-fight interview, Tyson calmly replied, "I didn't worry about it because I've seen him fight so many times and just watching him fight so many times I was expecting everything that he's done tonight."

Sounds like a guy angry enough to punch holes through walls, huh? Listen gang, you've got a brilliant fighter under wraps and the technical know-how to present him in brilliant fashion. Let's cut out the verbal crap before the boxing community comes to know you as HBS.

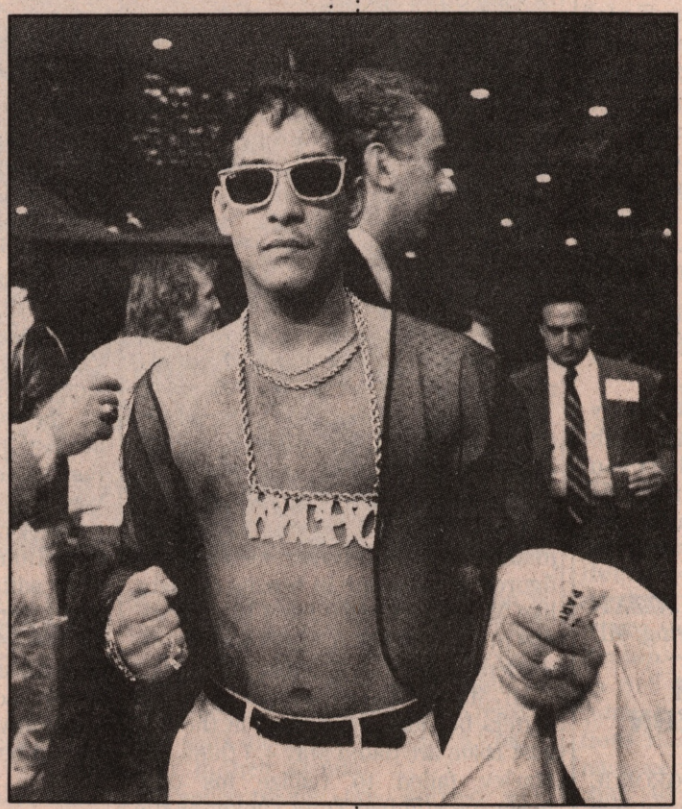


PHOTO BY MARC MORRISON

Hector Camacho has nothing to hide in this photo, but according to police in Clewiston, Florida, the "Macho Man" was caught holding a small bag of cocaine when he was arrested there on assault charges.

Round One

ANOTHER BACKWARD STEP

While the IBF deserves credit and support for continuing to insist on a 15-round championship distance, the Newark-based organization rates a huge raspberry for its latest announcement that its No. 1 contenders must fight to protect their top ranking or else be dropped to a lower rung.

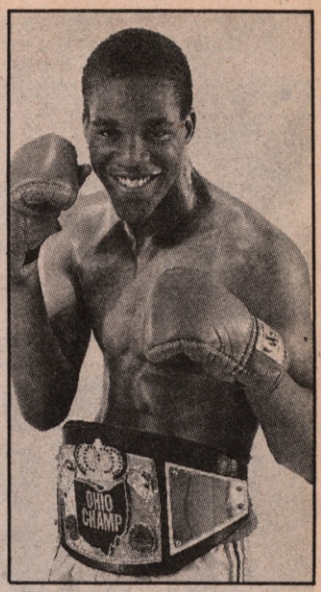
I always thought guys were supposed to fight their way to the No. 1 spot, not start fighting after they became No. 1.

PHOTO BY MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

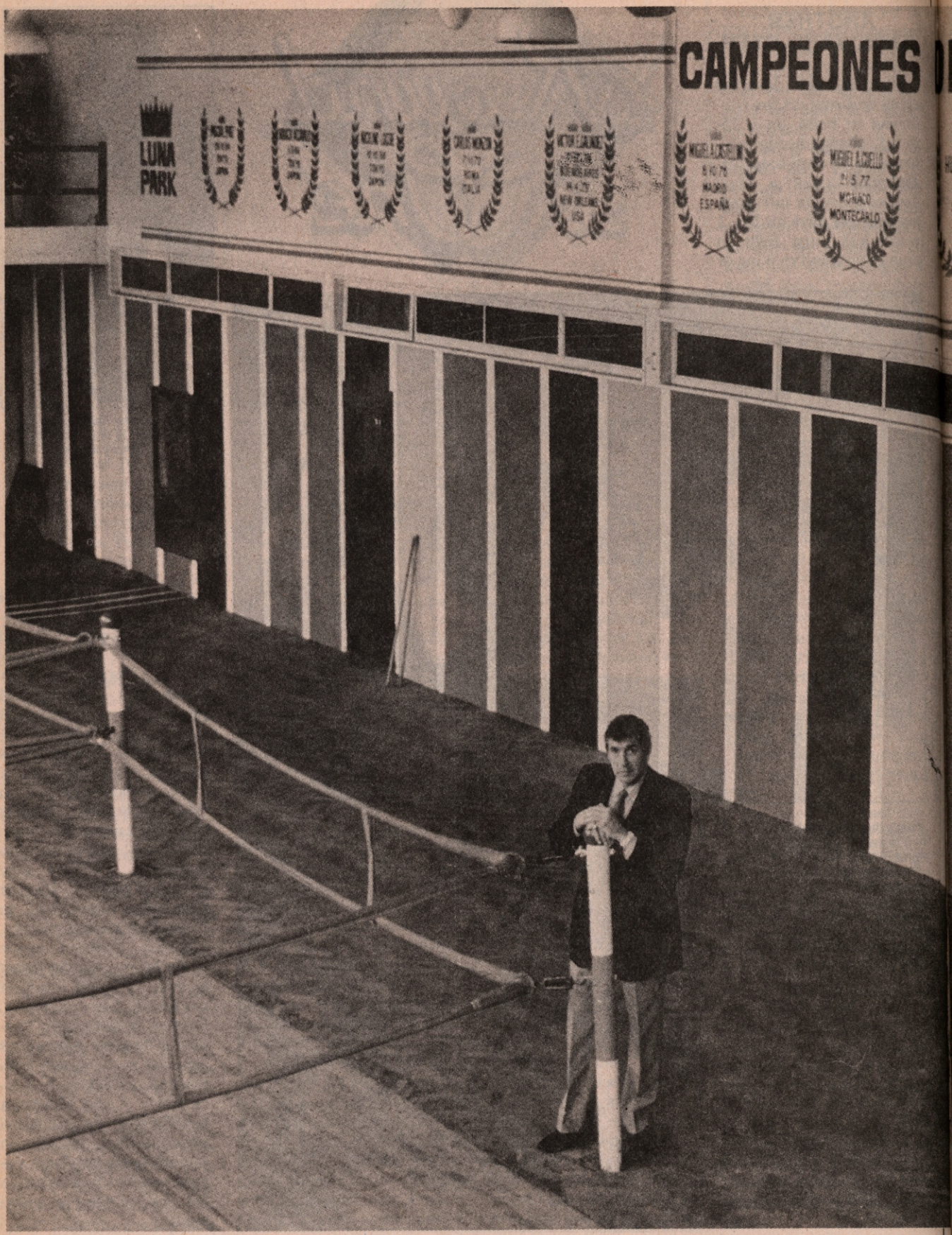
What's this? Michael Spinks held to a draw by unknown club fighter? No, it's just an exhibition with Miguel A. Fuentes Jr., President of Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center. The pair went three rounds to raise funds for the center's new anti-drug program. That's Butch Lewis behind the mike.

ROSIN DUST

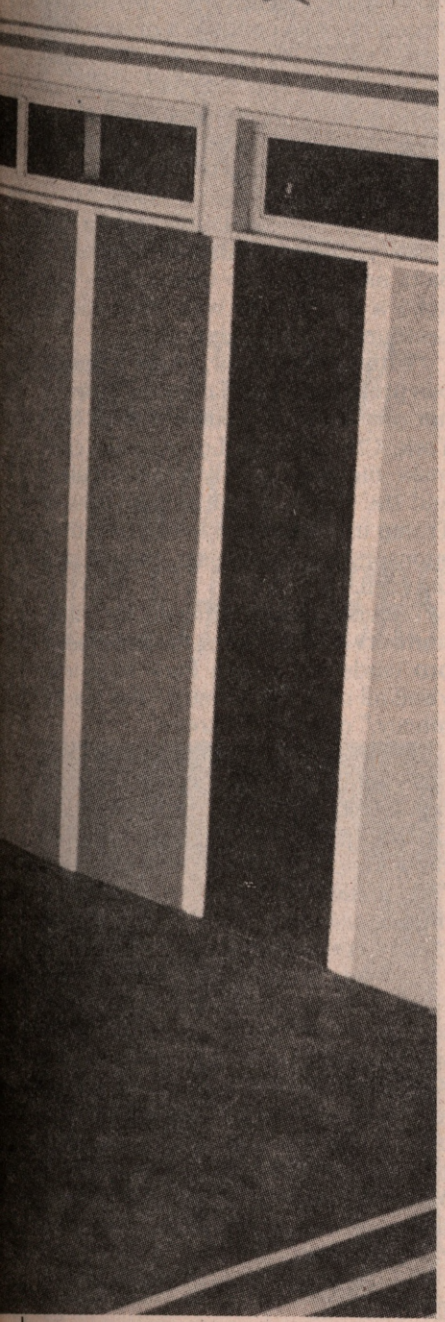
Some 1,000 guests showed up at New York's Apollo Theater to watch heavyweight champion **Michael Spinks** square off with Miguel A. Fuentes Jr., the president of the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center, to help raise funds for the hospital's anti-drug campaign ... IBF junior lightweight champ **Rocky Lockridge** paid a visit to Thomas E. Harrington Middle School in his home town of Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. Lockridge discussed several topics with the youngsters, including a strong anti-drug message. "I want them to know that when they begin to mess with drugs, they're in a fight they can never win." ... The rocky road of Massachusetts boxer **Mark Mainero** came to a sudden end at the young age of 25 when he was fatally stabbed less than two weeks after being released from the Worcester County House of Correction. Mainero's brother, Philip, has been charged with the slaying ... NBC signed **Ferdie Pacheco** to a new multi-year contract ... Canadian heavyweight **Razor Ruddock** punched out a computer when Eastern Airlines fouled up his sister's ticket to Toronto at Miami International Airport. Should have flown the friendly skies ... Former promoter **Norman Rothschild** passed away in Syracuse at age 68 ... North Dakota officials said **Virgil Hill's** planned April 3 bout in Bismarck could not be held on Easter Sunday unless staged by a non-profit enterprise. ABC had planned to televise ... Round One Crime Watch — **Hector Camacho,** arrested in Florida on assault charges, received double trouble when he was caught trying to hide a small stash of cocaine in his drawers ... Former welterweight contender **Tommy Ayers** was arrested and charged with cocaine trafficking in Cincinnati ... And **Sherman Griffin's** woes continued when Griffin, already on probation for burglary, was sentenced to four years in jail for robbing a video store. □



Another boxer busted on drug charges is welterweight Tommy Ayers.


CAMPEONES
LUNA PARK
MADRID ESPAÑA
MONACO MONTECARLO

Tito Lectoure poses beneath Argentina's wall of champions in the now closed Luna Park Gym.



This is how the Luna Park Gym looked during its heyday, bulging at the seams with fighters and trainers.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Closing Of Luna Park Gym Latest Blow To Argentine Boxing

by Carlos Irusta

Is boxing dying in Argentina?

Once a hotbed of fistic activity, Argentine boxing suffered two tremendous blows during the latter part of 1987 which threatened to kayo the sport in a country rich in boxing heritage.

First, on October 29, Juan Domingo Roldan was iced in four rounds by Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns in his bid to win the vacant WBC middleweight title. But that was nothing compared to the shock felt throughout the entire Argentine boxing community when Juan Carlos Lectoure closed his famous Luna Park Gym 15 days after Roldan's Las Vegas disaster.

Boxing in Argentina has enjoyed a brilliant tradition since the times of Luis Angel Firpo, the famous "Wild Bull of the Pampas," who put Jack Dempsey through the ropes during their epic bout for the world heavyweight title in 1924.

For many years, boxing was the second most popular sport in Argentina. Soccer was — and still is — number one, but it is a team sport and Argentinians love individualism. For this reason, it is possible to say that tennis, first with Guillermo Vilas and now with Gabriela Sabatini, ranks second in the hearts of Argentine sports fans. However, boxing, along with auto racing and basketball, is still very popular.

Argentina's first world champion was Pascual Perez, who won the flyweight gold medal in the 1948 Olympics. In 1954 Perez traveled to Tokyo to challenge Yoshio Shirai for the world 112-pound title. He outpointed Shirai over 15 rounds and returned home a national hero. President Juan Domingo Peron honored him personally and Perez went on to record nine successful defenses before finally losing the crown to Pone Kingpetch in 1960. Perez was elected to *The Ring's* Boxing Hall of Fame in 1977, the same year of his death.

Lectoure, known as "Tito," first emerged as Luna Park matchmaker around 1957 and rapidly became the most important person in Argentine boxing. By 1966 he had developed his first world champion in Horacio Accavallo, who won the vacant WBA flyweight crown with a 15-round points victory over Katsuyoshi Takayama.

Lectoure's decision to close the Luna Park Gym has provoked a lot of arguments. Luna Park was to Argentine boxing what Broadway is to American theatre; its greatest stage. But now?

"He will be guilty of boxing's death," said Santos Zacarias, manager of WBA junior welter boss Juan Martin Coggi, when questioned about Lectoure's controversial move.

"He (Lectoure) prefers to promote ballet, music or skating at Luna Park Stadium, but he forgets he's a boxing man," claimed another disgruntled member of the Argentine boxing fraternity.

But of course, there are always two sides to every story.

"Yes, I closed the gym," Lectoure told *The Ring*. "But not forever, just for a short time. In my gym worked about 20 managers with about only 40 boxers ... just an average of two boxers for every manager. Something was wrong, I guess. And not all the managers worked as seriously as I would have wished. I feel alone ... very alone.

"When I required boxers for my shows, boxers from my gym, I couldn't find them. During 1987, I promoted seven cards at Luna Park and 10 in the Argentinian Boxing Federation's little stadium. In Luna Park, which seats 20,000, only Roldan was capable of drawing over 10,000 fans. The average crowd was 3,500 to 4,000. And when I made bouts at the FBA stadium, I lost around $10,000 because the gates were very bad. Who wants to make bad business for a hobby? Only me, but I am tired."

One of the problems may be the location of the Luna Park Gym.

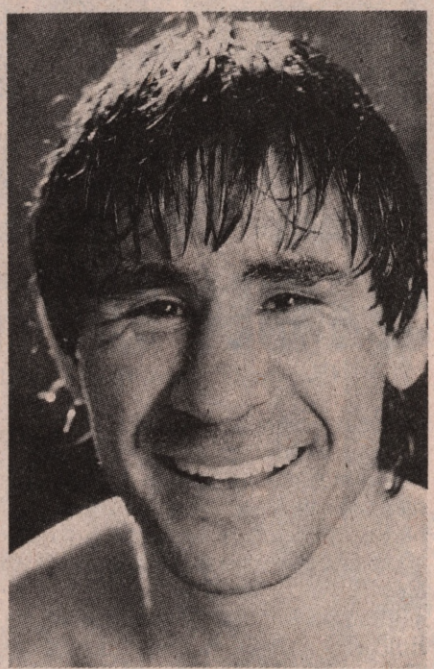
"The gym is in downtown Buenos Aires, but most boxers emerge from poor neighborhoods. Gyms must be in those neighborhoods to work. I think all the managers forgot this golden truth. They have lost their sacrificial spirit," continued Lectoure. "They must return to the way of the old days when all the boxers trained at their local gyms and only the big names came to Luna Park."

Lectoure was also very disheartened by Roldan's performance against Hearns. He failed to obey Tito's orders. Instead, he attacked like a kamikaze; no guard, no bending at the waist, no precaution. Roldan rushed and tried, but made a fatal mistake — he forgot all about Hearns' power.

After losing to Hearns, Roldan announced in his dressing room that he was quitting. But a week later, back in his little home town of Freyre, he changed his mind. And Lectoure admits "The Hammer" is still important to the immediate future of Argentine boxing.

Of course, Roldan is not Argentina's only boxing star. Coggi, who recently recovered from a bout with hepatitis, is ready to defend his title. However, because his manager and Lectoure are "divorced," it is unlikely he will box in Argentina. Instead, he will probably travel to Europe again and fight for Roberto Sabbatini.

Another of Argentina's best boxers, former WBA flyweight king Santos Laciar, enjoyed a brief moment of success in '87 when he beat Mexican Gilberto Roman for the WBC super flyweight belt in May. But his stay at the top was short-lived. By October he was an ex-champ again when Colombian Sugar Baby Rojas defeated him and took the belt. Rojas also put a stop to the title aspirations of Argentina's Gustavo Ballas, the former WBA junior bantam champ, who suffered a fourth-round kayo loss in an attempt to relieve Rojas of the title.



Bantamweight Lucio "Machine Gun" Lopez, Argentina's best bet for future world title honors.

On a brighter note is Lucio "Machine Gun" Lopez, a strong bantamweight prospect who owns both the Argentine and South American 118-pound titles. He is the WBC's No. 1 contender and hopes to challenge Miguel "Happy" Lora in the near future.

Other Argentine boxers worth watching are welters Hugo Vilte, Hugo "Pajarito" Hernandez and Miguel Arroyo; featherweight Pedro Decima; middleweight Hugo Marinangeli and flyweights Adrian Roman and Mario Demarco.

But despite the occasional "new face" on the Argentine scene, the stats support the notion that boxing is on the skids. There are currently about 400 professional boxers in Argentina. In 1987 there were 369 pro shows throughout the country, a drastic drop from the 595 cards in '86. While cities such as Salta, Mar del Plata, Cordoba, La Rioja and Comodoro hosted plenty of shows in '87, Buenos Aires had only 17. And there hasn't been a world title match in Argentina since 1986.

Though the local government has given promoters Miguel Herrera in Salta and Francisco Giordano in Cordoba a lot of help with their shows, Lectoure remains pessimistic.

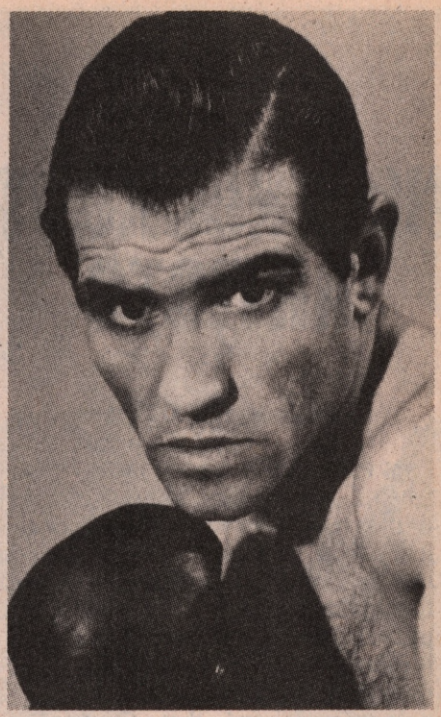
"Without a sponsor, I have tremendous problems," said Lectoure. "They're not only mine. Big cities such as New York, Chicago and Los Angeles can't make big shows. Only Caesars Palace and the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas or Trump in Atlantic City, with help from sponsors like Budweiser, can put on a big card."

Television hasn't helped the situation very much. During the last season, pro cards from Luna Park were televised all over the country. "But not for money," claimed Lectoure.

"Selling a Hearns-Roldan bout is very different than selling a series of local fights," explained Jose Domingo Irusta Cornet, owner of Hit Productions, Top Rank's Argentine representative. "When the event is international, the interest is bigger. For this reason local boxing is not important."

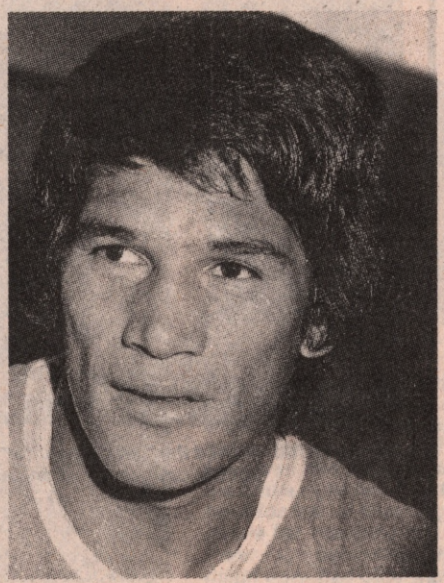
In many ways, Argentina's current problems are very similar to those boxing is experiencing throughout the world. Most domestic experts feel Argentina's problems are temporary and will eventually be solved. The best — and quickest — solution would be another Perez or another Carlos Monzon. For great fighters have always been one of Argentina's greatest natural resources.

Yes, boxing is down in Argentina, but far from out. □



ARGENTINE WORLD TITLEHOLDERS

Pascual Perez	world flyweight champion	1954-1960
Horacio Accavallo	WBA flyweight champion	1966-1967
Nicolino Locche	WBA jr. welterweight champion	1968-1972
Carlos Monzon	world middleweight champion	1970-1977
Victor Galindez	WBA light heavy champion	1974-1978,79
Miguel Castellini	WBA jr. middleweight champ	1976-1977
Miguel Angel Cuello	WBC light heavy champion	1977-1978
Hugo Corro	world middleweight champion	1978-1979
Gustavo Ballas	WBA jr. bantam champion	1981-1982
Santos Laciar	WBA flyweight champ	1981,1982-85
	WBC super flyweight champ	1987
Sergio Palma	WBA jr. featherweight champ	1980-1982
Ubaldo Sacco	WBA jr. welterweight champ	1986
Juan Martin Coggi	WBA jr. welterweight champ	1987



Clockwise From Top Left: Victor Galindez, Horacio Accavallo, Pascual Perez, Carlos Monzon and Nicolino Locche

NO-KNOCKOUT ARTISTS

By Joseph D'O'Brian

I AM PRETTY WELL CONVINCED THAT when I saw Michael Nunn spend six rounds more than was necessary to defeat Kevin Watts a few weeks ago, I saw the future of boxing. This is not to say that I predict Nunn will be the next middleweight champ — heaven forfend. But I do have a feeling fights of this sort will become the rule in the near future, and that fighters of Michael Nunn's ilk — those who can outpoint anybody but knock out nobody — will generally become the most successful practitioners of the sport.

Fifteen-round fights are nearing extinction. History moves a little faster now than it did once upon a time, and there's little doubt in my mind that 12-rounders aren't long for this world, either. I predict that less than a generation from now, title bouts will be of 10-round duration — possibly 10 two-minute rounds.

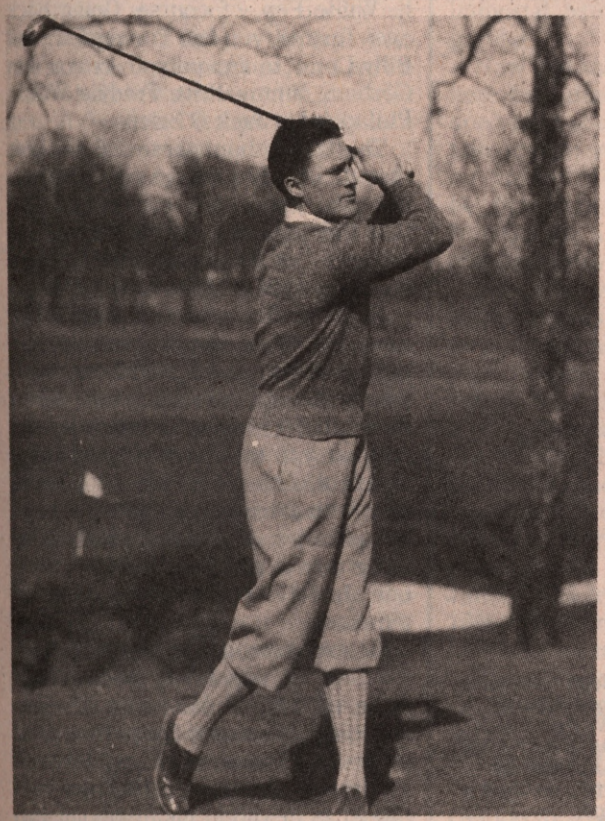
Therefore, as time goes by there will be a much greater premium placed on speed, defense and general boxing skills, and less on hitting power. Pro boxing will become much more like amateur boxing, where the object of the game is not to knock your man out, but to outpoint him over a short haul. The next Rocky Marciano, the next Joe Frazier, will never be seen. He'll exist, but he'll have a very short career thanks to a lot of points losses that he might not have suffered had he been born 10 or 20 years earlier.

You'll still see the occasional Mike Tyson or Tony Ayala, the guy who can explode and take anybody apart with a punch or two, but even that type will be considerably less successful than he is today. No, the future belongs to the cream-puffers, like 'em or not.

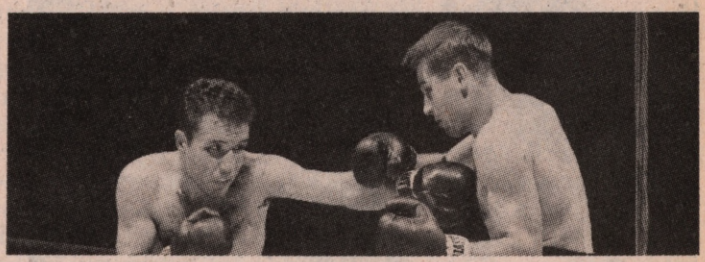
In most sports, I like defensive struggles. My favorite baseball team was the 1965 Dodgers, the team of Koufax, Drysdale and the .190 batting average.

Emile Griffith flashed the "peace sign" for THE RING photographer. Emile seldom knocked out his opponents, especially after the Benny Paret tragedy.

Joe D'O'Brian thinks light-punching speedsters such as middleweight contender Michael Nunn (seen here with Joe Goossen and Al Pena) are the wave of the future.

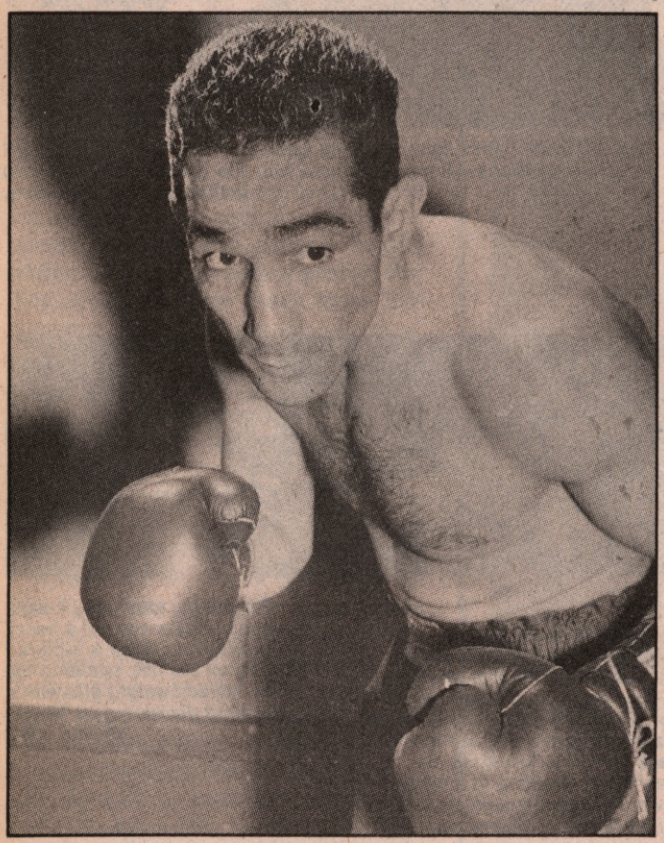


Former light heavyweight kingpin Tommy Loughran always showed excellent form whether in the ring or on the golf links. Loughran had plenty of kick in his brittle right hand, but held back for fear of breaking his fragile fist, resulting in a much lower kayo percentage than he might have had otherwise.



Despite his tough-guy image, Jake LaMotta was not a heavy puncher. LaMotta is pictured here on the left, retaining the middleweight title with a 15-round decision over Tiberio Mitri in 1950.

Light-punching Ken Buchanan leads with his left as he dances with England's Princess Anne.



Though considered a light puncher, Willie Pep could bang when he had to. Just ask Sal Bartolo or Chalky Wright

I lose interest in football unless the game ends up with a score of 10-7 or 17-13. I detest pro basketball; I liked the college game until they instituted the shot-clock and the three-point goal.

I like to see good defenses in boxing, too — up to a point. I'll get into it if the two fighters are consistently blunting one another's attacks, but it's only fun if there are attacks to be blunted. Jabbing and feinting contests don't do much for me.

But as boxing matches get shorter, and as referees become more and more eager to stop a fight when someone gets hurt, we're going to see more of that sort of fight. Boxers will be less eager to take chances, and fighters of the wear-'em-down-and-grind-it-out school will be at a great disadvantage under these new circumstances.

Therefore, now might be a good time to take a look at the past 100 years of pro boxing, the era on which we will one day look back and say, "Boy, in them days a guy with no punch really had to be something special to get anywhere." Because there certainly have been a few fighters who couldn't deck a six-year-old girl and who were still a pleasure to watch.

Kenny Buchanan was one of these. So is Howard Davis, when he feels like it. Willie Pep, of course. Going back even further, you had Tommy Farr and Billy Conn. In antiquity, there was Jim Corbett, Jimmy Britt, Freddie Welsh, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien.

The thing about these fighters was that their fights were never predictable. You knew they couldn't hit and that the fight would probably go the distance, but the general tone and feeling of the fight could never be foreseen.

Emile Griffith was my favorite of this type. He never knocked anyone out, but he would never get involved in a dance, jab and grab exhibition, either. He wouldn't repulse an attack by running away from it; he'd duck and dodge and neutralize. He wouldn't counterattack with a dreary set of jabs; he'd mix his punches up, so that each of his fights was a complete lesson in what one should expect of a great counterpuncher.

He even managed to make his losses exciting. He might lose spectacularly, as he did when Rubin Carter unbelievably caught him early and put him away in the first round, or he might lose in a pier-six version of *Daphnis and Chloe*, as he did in his first bout with

Nino Benvenuti (another great singles hitter). In a way, his defeats could be even more impressive than his victories, since the losing fights were the ones in which you saw his abilities fully extended.

Buchanan was another light puncher who looked his best when he was getting beat. His two lightweight title fights against Ismael Laguna were interesting and educational, but the fight of his that I really enjoyed was the one where Roberto Duran beat him up and turned him into a boy soprano in the process.

This fight showed Duran at his absolute best: a truly fearsome fighter who looked like he ripped out babies' hearts for lunch, and who fought like it. Buchanan had no chance against Duran; no mortal would have gone the distance with Roberto that night. Buchanan was a mile behind on points and on the verge of collapse when he was finally kayoed by a nut-shot, but for the 13 rounds the fight lasted he was right there, making the best of it and actually blunting a few of Duran's barrages. He didn't last, but he did a pretty good job of showing how to give a good account of yourself against an opponent who's many times better than you are.

Farr was an example of one of my favorite types of fighter: the type who can't punch, isn't very fast, and isn't a particularly brilliant tactician, but who gets in there and scraps his way to a decision. Farr made up for his lack of a punch by being unusually durable: In his prime, he was impossible to knock out. He would take another guy's best shots over and over and each time he would pay the fellow back with a flurry of his own.

LaMotta was another of this type. Because of his "Raging Bull" image, people today imagine that he must have been quite a puncher, but the record books will indicate that he only scored a handful of knockouts. Fritzie Zivic, who fought him four times, claimed that LaMotta "had the kind of punch that if he swatted a fly, you could lay six-to-five on the fly to get up and swat back." Once again, it was durability rather than a big punch that saw LaMotta through his career.

On the other side of the coin is the fighter who can hit as hard as anyone, but who for some reason chooses not to. Tommy Loughran, the light heavy champ, used to claim he could have had a much higher kayo percentage, but he was fearful for his hands. He could only throw one haymaker per fight, he said, and if it didn't come off, he'd have a busted hand for the rest of the fight. Consequently, he scored a knockout about as often as the late Queen Mary chewed tobacco in public.

Pep could probably have been a classic boxer-puncher on the order of Alexis Arguello or Eder Jofre. He could hit. Ask Sal Bartolo or Chalky Wright or any of the other guys who at one time or another failed to go the distance with him. But Willie didn't have the best jaw in the world, and he cut pretty easily. So in his case, it was the smart thing to forget about the punch and be satisfied with out-dancing everyone.

It's a funny thing, but if Pep had started fighting in the 1950s or 60s instead of the late 30s, he probably wouldn't have done as well. He would have had to develop his punch and go for the kayo more often because TV audiences prefer knockouts — and so, consequently, do TV producers. Therefore, he would probably have been stopped several times early in his career since he wouldn't have been able to play it as safe, and that would have been that. We would have lost an immortal before he even got off the ground.

Now I'm talking about old fighters here, but I don't mean to imply that we don't have some very good, very entertaining fighters today who can't punch much. Hector Camacho is one — when he fights. Juan LaPorte is another. Nunn, with a little seasoning, might graduate from a technician to an artist.

But what worries me is that with shorter fights, there will be a trend away from hard punchers and toward slick boxers. And as we all know, a fighter who can't punch will always look his best against an opponent who can, whether he wins or loses. Put two counterpunchers in the same ring and you'll get something that's only slightly more fun than the pain and itching of hemorrhoidal tissues. Remember the Jimmy Ellis-Jerry Quarry bout back in 1968? That, I'm afraid, is the direction in which we might move.

There are exceptions, of course. The Griffith-Benvenuti series was one; the several Kid Gavilan-Billy Graham fights didn't put anyone to sleep, either. I'd pay a lot to see Nunn fight Michael Olajide today, although I'd be positive it would go the distance. But fights like this are exceptions precisely because the people involved in them were not, or are not, afraid to launch an offense, even though they didn't, or don't, have paralyzing power.

So perhaps I'm being overly pessimistic. I will go on mourning the death of the 15-round fight until I am finally kayoed by cirrhosis or something similar, but it is conceivable that a new approach to boxing will lead to more artistic fights. We may indeed lose our Marcianos and our Fraziers, but we may gain a few more Gavilans, Peps and LaMottas. After all, the big punchers were always a lot of fun to watch, and they gave a lot to boxing while their careers lasted, but you almost never see a slugger making a lasting contribution to the evolution of the game.

And one thing that such a revision of boxing might do is to force us to recognize the punching power of fighters who are not generally recognized as big hitters. I'm talking here about guys like Michael Spinks, Marlon Starling, Carl Williams and Buddy McGirt. These guys all have pretty impressive knockout records — very impressive in some cases — yet do not immediately leap to your mind when you're trying to list the hardest punchers around today. In the past, boxers with the same problem included Gene Tunney, Max Schmeling, Ezzard Charles and Jose Napoles, among many others.

This is the type of fighter who will look good against a boxer or a slugger, who will knock you out with technique instead of with raw power, but who will knock you out nevertheless. And if they find themselves more frequently engaged with boxers, rather than sluggers, their skills can't help but improve and their punching power will inevitably look as impressive as it really is.

Still, there can be little doubt that things are going to get easier and easier for the guy who can dance and move, but can't break an egg. You'll see more and more of those guys wearing championship belts as time goes by, and while a lot of them will be well worth watching and may truly be great fighters, they won't be as rare as they once were. And the day may come when we won't notice at all, when we'll forget to turn open-mouthed to the fellow next to us and cry, "But he can't punch a lick! How the hell does he do it?" □

SHOWTIME®: THE NETWORK OF UPSETS

Barry McGuigan shows the effects of Steve Cruz's fists . . . and the SHOWTIME jinx.

by Nigel Collins

IF HOME BOX OFFICE IS THE UNDISPUTED champion of big budget TV boxing, SHOWTIME has to be considered No. 1 contender. Since the fledgling cable network made its pugilistic debut with a tape-delayed showing of the March '86 Marvin Hagler-John Mugabi card, it has rapidly fought its way past such established veterans as ABC, NBC and CBS and is currently nipping at HBO's heels.

"Yes, we're to HBO as Avis is to Hertz and Nestles is to Hershey . . . No. 2 and trying harder," said Stu Ginsburg, SHOWTIME's director of public relations. "But we're very realistic about it, we're not going to overtake HBO in subscribers. But we don't have to to be very successful."

A big reason for SHOWTIME's popularity with its viewers has been the quality of the matches. Instead of a steady diet of stars predictably padding their records against "selected opponents," SHOWTIME has become the network of upsets. So many top names have had the rug pulled out from under them, the "SHOWTIME Jinx" is already a part of boxing lore.

They got the ball rolling the very first show when Gaby Canizales starched (and practically killed) Richie Sandoval to capture the WBA bantamweight title on the Hagler-Mugabi undercard. The trend continued when Canizales lost the belt to Bernardo Pinango in his first defense as part of SHOWTIME's first live presentation. But the two upsets involving Canizales were nothing compared to the shocker which followed.

Barry McGuigan was one of boxing's hottest properties when he climbed into the ring in Las Vegas to defend his WBA featherweight title against substitute challenger Steve Cruz, June 28, 1986. When he climbed out, following a titanic struggle which was eventually selected as *The Ring*'s Fight of the Year, McGuigan was an ex-champ and SHOWTIME had the first major upset on its ledger.

But if McGuigan's downfall stunned the experts, what happened on SHOWTIME's next bill knocked them for a loop. Donald Curry was the undisputed welterweight champion and considered by many as the best fighter, pound-for-pound, on the planet. Brash Brit Lloyd Honeyghan changed all that with a sixth-round TKO and SHOWTIME's reputation as the network of upsets was firmly established.

However, that wasn't the end of the jinx. Following minor upsets such as Duane Thomas' controversial TKO over John "The Beast" Mugabi and Ossie Ocasio's bizarre win over Dwight Qawi, came another mind blower when "Prince" Charles Williams came off the deck to stop Bobby Czyz for the IBF light heavyweight crown.

"All those upsets were carefully planned," claimed SHOWTIME's director of original programming, Jay Larkin, tongue firmly planted in cheek. "I took Barry McGuigan out in the desert the day before the Cruz fight and said, 'Barry, I bet you can't run to the top of that mountain over there.'

"Seriously though, all the upsets we've had have been very flukey because many of them were career changing upsets. McGuigan hasn't fought since and Curry is now on his *second* comeback since Honeyghan beat him. Overall, it was very lucky for us, but it also scared a lot of fighters. When Mark Breland beat Harold Volbrecht (for the WBA welter title), the first thing he said at the press conference was, 'I beat the SHOWTIME jinx.'"

Of course, the Breland-Volbrecht farce goes to prove that not even SHOWTIME televises good bouts all the time. They've had a few stinkers, including Breland's lackadaisical effort against Javier Suazo, the aforemen-

tioned Ocasio-Qawi bummer and the Thomas Hearns-Mark Medal mismatch. But overall, the quality has been high.

"Our basic rule of thumb is that each boxing show has to be taken on its own strength, not as anything leading up to a great culmination or unification of titles," explained Larkin, the man responsible for picking the bouts SHOWTIME will broadcast. "We have a luxury other TV networks don't have. We have no mandate to put on boxing. Boxing is not part of the basic promise of SHOWTIME. So, if several months go by and the right fight doesn't present itself, we have no obligation to just put on any old fight because we owe our subscribers boxing."

SHOWTIME is also very aware of the importance of developing stars for its boxing programming. While Mike Tyson carries the HBO banner into America's living rooms, Evander Holyfield is doing likewise for SHOWTIME. He has scored three impressive kayoes (Ricky Parkey, Ocasio and Qawi) on SHOWTIME and will be making his fourth appearance for them in April.

"Holyfield is an event every time he fights," stated Larkin.

At the present, budget restrictions make it impossible for SHOWTIME to outbid HBO for certain fights and fighters. Nevertheless, SHOWTIME has a powerful weapon which may ultimately enable it to overtake HBO in TV's boxing sweepstakes.

"Part of the SHOWTIME mix is a company called Viewer's Choice, which is the largest pay-per-view network in the country," said Larkin. "With the kind of clout Viewer's Choice gives us, we can bring something extra to the table no other organization can."

Perhaps it would be a good idea to pause here and briefly explain the difference between closed-circuit, cable and pay-per-view.

Closed-circuit, where fans go to their local arena or theater and pay cash to see an event, is quickly becoming the dinosaur of the industry. Few fights are big enough to warrant the tremendous overhead involved and it wouldn't be too surprising if closed-circuit cards went the way of ballpark fights in the near future.

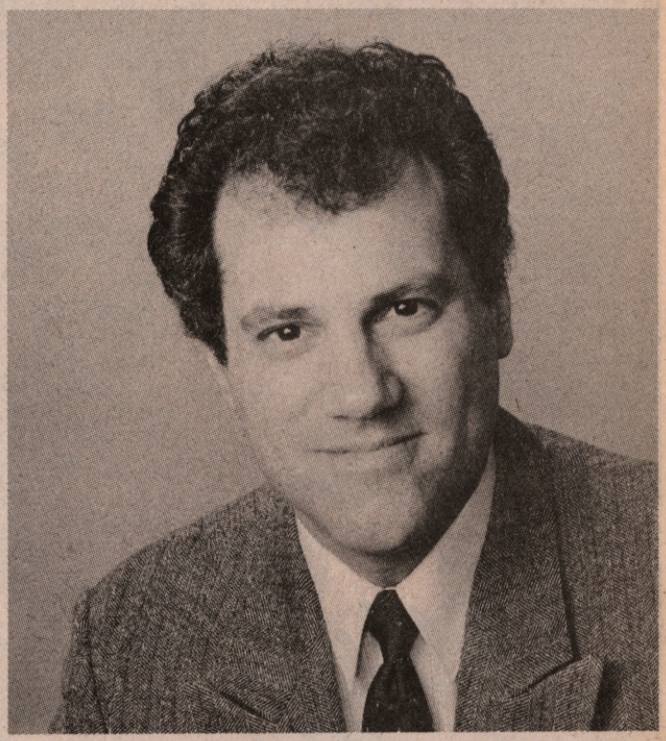
Straight cable, such as HBO and ESPN, televises fights to its subscribers at no additional cost. Pay-per-view, on the other hand, charges a separate fee, on an individual basis, for special events such as major boxing bouts.

It is pay-per-view which many experts, including Top Rank's Bob Arum, think is the future of boxing. The feature which makes it so attractive to customers is quite simple: While the boxing fan still has to pay approximately the same price ($20 to $25) to watch a pay-per-view fight as he would to attend a closed-circuit show, he can do it from the comfort of his couch and skip the hassle of traveling.

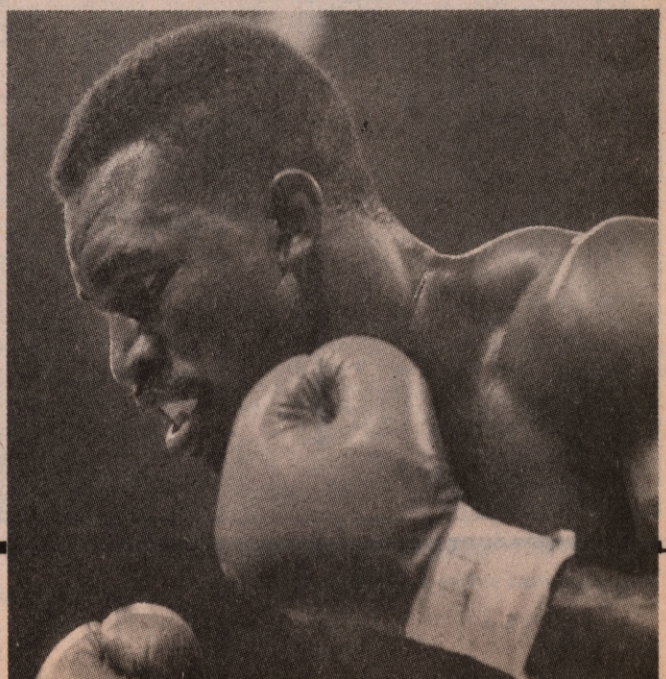
SHOWTIME is also exploring a new wrinkle in the pay-per-view aspect of boxing programming.

"One thing we are seriously looking at is pay-per-view on a lower scale," reported Ginsburg. "Right now we're in about three million homes with pay-per-view and reach approximately another two million homes via backyard dishes. With those kind of numbers we could charge $1.00 to $1.50 for good boxing on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. For the big fights we could still charge $20 because the customers already expect it."

Whether or not pay-per-view is the wave of the future remains to be seen, but one thing is for sure: SHOWTIME is in boxing for keeps, and that's good news for all boxing fans . . . especially those who love upsets. □



Jay Larkin, director of original programming, decides which fights SHOWTIME will telecast.

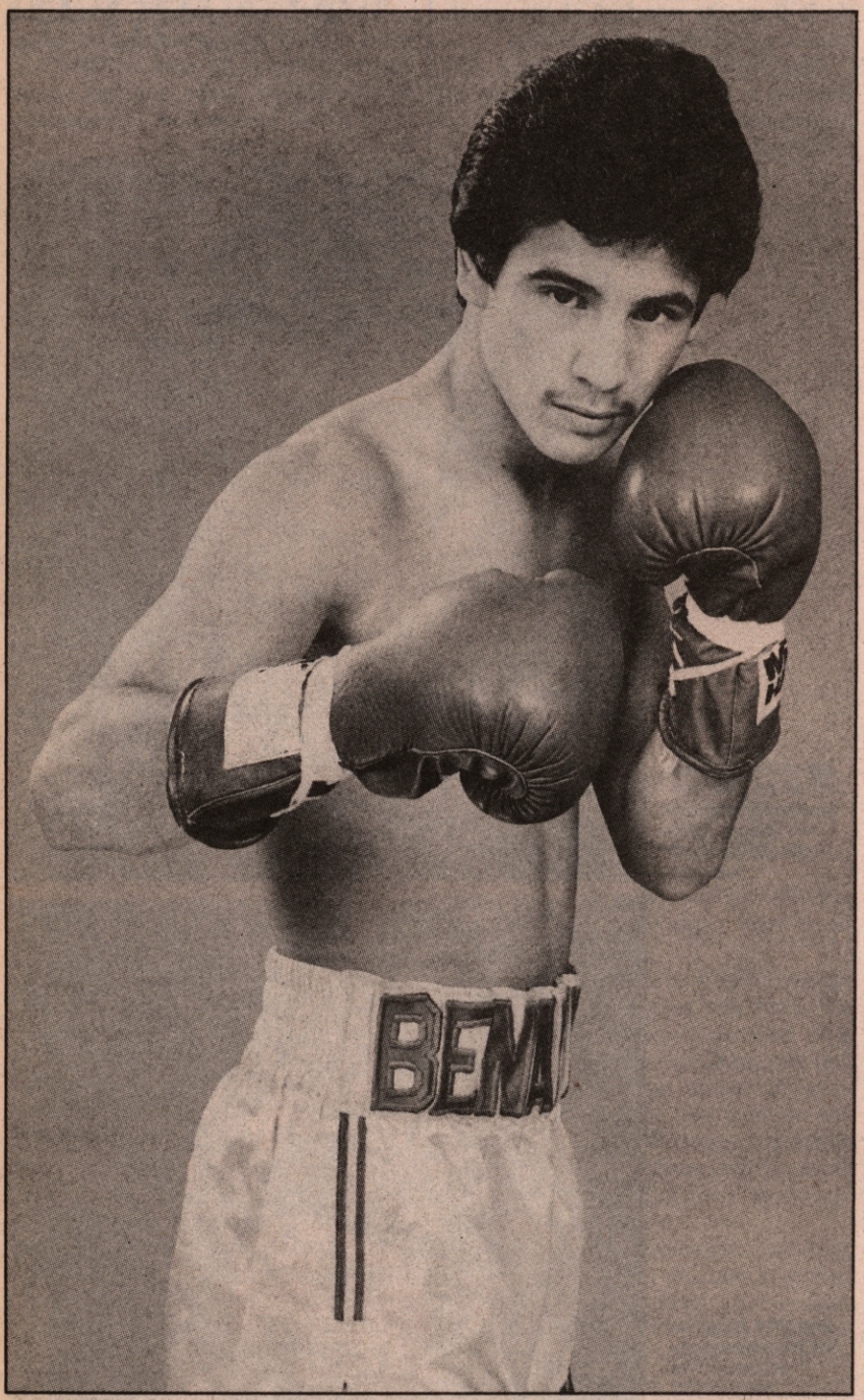


Evander Holyfield has become a major attraction for SHOWTIME.

New Faces

by Phil Woolever

JESSE BENAVIDES



On Halloween night in Phoenix all the hard tricks flashed from the hands of featherweight Jesse Benavides; their power barely disguised by leather padding. It was no treat for opponent Mike Moreno as Benavides underlined his status as a rising star with a fourth-round knockout.

Moreno was supposed to have been more of a test than he turned out to be. He'd shown well in the L.A. Stroh's Tournament and given Steve McCrory a hard time in his outing previous to Benavides. But Benavides' classy performance left no doubt as to why his name is being mentioned more and more in boxing circles.

Benavides had already given Arizona boxing fans a clue to his prowess a month earlier when he stopped Hugo Partida in Tucson. He had shown a variety of offensive styles dissecting Partida, taking full advantage of any openings with sudden fierceness. Against Moreno, Benavides was even more impressive.

"Once I knew I could do what I wanted, I let him come to me," explained Benavides, as calm and collected recounting the event as he was applying the finishing touches. "He (Moreno) threw a lazy jab and I decided if he did it again, I'd counter with a right hook."

Of course, Moreno did it again and wound up listening to the referee's 10 count while flat on the floor.

Less than a month after his impressive victory over Moreno, Benavides jetted north to Atlantic City and decisioned Greg Richardson over 12 rounds to win the USBA super bantamweight belt, raising his overall slate to 21-0 with 16 KOs.

Despite a relatively limited pro career, Benavides has been boxing for a long time, compiling a 320-20 amateur log. His honors include National Golden Glove titles at 106, 112 and 119 pounds; U.S. Amateur Boxing Federation titles at 106 ('81) and 112 ('82); and the North American Games 119-pound crown in '83. He also traveled to Rome as a member of the '83 U.S. World Cup team, where he lost to a Russian in the quarterfinals.

"I accomplished almost everything I wanted as an amateur except for going to the Olympics," said Benavides, who lost to Robert Shannon in the '84 Olympic trials.

Benavides turned pro under the management of Emanuel Steward in

Jesse Benavides strikes a classic southpaw pose.

September of '84 with a first-round kayo over Tommy Valdez in Corpus Christi and has had most of his bouts in the Southwest. He trains at Tony Ayala's San Antonio farm, sometimes known as Kronk West. Ayala first became aware of Benavides' talents during Jesse's amateur days when he was on the same Texas team as Tony Ayala Jr.

"For now, the sun has set on Tony Jr. and boxing," said the elder Ayala. "But it is rising on Jesse Benavides."

Ayala has been around the fight game long enough to experience more than his share of ups and downs, and is using his knowledge to help Benavides avoid some of the pitfalls which overtook his sons Tony Jr. and Mike. Ayala is from the old school and his insistence on hard work has helped chart smooth sailing for Benavides ... so far.

"I told him it was no longer fun, games and medals," said Ayala, whose conditioning program mixes traditional fare such as running through the hills and chopping wood with modern innovations such as isolated weight training and nutritional supplements. Benavides' chief sparring partner is USBA flyweight champ Ray Medal, with frequent leather tips also coming from stablemates Frankie Warren and Roland Gomez.

"The big difference (between the amateurs and pros) is the punching," Benavides said. "In the amateurs, I was good at throwing lots of punches, scoring without trying to hurt anyone. Now, I've got to hurt people or they'll walk right over me."

Benavides' first experience with such a mishap came in his fourth pro adventure against Agustin Soberanes.

"They told me he had no punch," remembered Benavides. "But he knocked me down with the first right hand he hit me with!"

But the mark of a champion is always to get up and Benavides' resolve and skill carried him to a decision.

Away from the ring, much of Jesse's time is spent at home enjoying the life his fistic efforts have gained for his wife Rhonda and their two-year-old daughter, Jessica. While *The Ring* spoke with Jesse, Jessica sang and played happily in the background. It's a nice scene, one not emphasized enough in sports these days. Other family fun comes from watching football.

"I was raised a Dallas Cowboy fan," said Benavides, who has mixed feeling about the recent football strike, but knows exactly how he feels about a champion's duty to his fans.

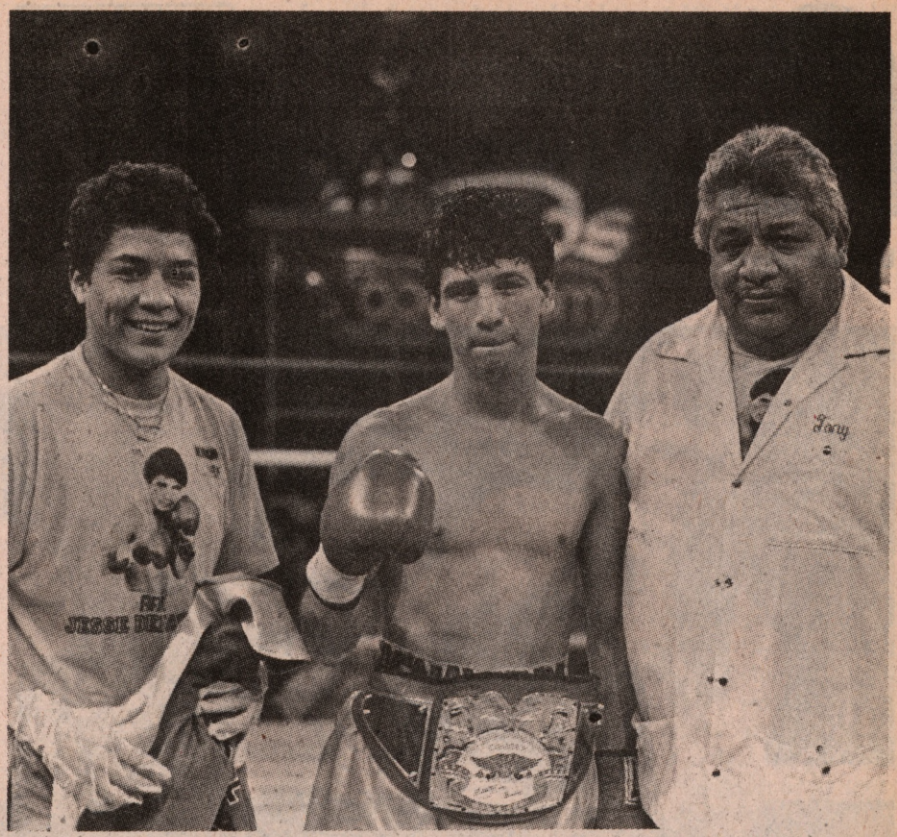
"When you win a title, you should defend it at any time, in any place, against the most qualified opponent."

He also has a clear focus on his hobby of photography. When a paid snapper failed to show at the Rome World Cup Games, Jesse filled in and took shots the amateur association later published. Benavides' pictures of his family also fill their home. But don't let this comfortable image mislead. When the square of living room walls turns into satin ring strands, Benavides is more than ready to show his rougher side.

However, Benavides the photographer and Benavides the boxer both want the same glossy portrait for 1988: "It has me with a championship belt around my waist with my arms raised in victory," proclaimed Jesse.

Clear a place on the mantle, Rhonda. The picture is already developing. □

PHOTO BY ERIC B. HUGHES



Jesse Benavides (center) celebrates his triumph over Greg Richardson with trainer Tony Ayala (right) and stablemate Ray Medal.

THE PROFESSIONAL RING RECORD OF JESSE BENAVIDES

Corpus Christi, Texas featherweight
Born: November 3, 1963
Height: 5-4
Manager: Emanuel Steward
Trainer: Tony Ayala

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
	1984		
Sept. 27	Tommy Valdez	Corpus Christi	KO 1
Nov. 14	Ray Espinoza	Detroit	KO 2
	1985		
Jan. 31	Bobby Adams	Detroit	KO 2
Feb. 8	Agustin Soberanes	Stateline	W 4
Mar. 31	Adolfo Antonio	Laughlin	W 6
May. 21	Rogelio Leanos	Corpus Christi	KO 7
July 10	Pedro Rodriguez	Corpus Christi	W 8
Sept. 25	Eddie Gonzales	Corpus Christi	KO 2
Oct. 24	Eddy Petty	Detroit	KO 4
Dec. 13	Juven Molino	San Antonio	KO 1
	1986		
Feb. 10	Eugene Morgan	Laughlin	KO 3
May. 11	Gerardo Velasquez	Corpus Christi	KO 1
June. 15	Alvaro Rosquero	Corpus Christi	KO 2
July. 28	Anthonio Escobar	Phoenix	KO 2
Aug. 23	David Johnson	Corpus Christi	W 10
	1987		
Mar. 10	John Boyd	Corpus Christi	KO 10
May 29	Hector Cortez	Detroit	KO 5
Aug. 15	Arturo Tabaqui	San Antonio	KO 3
Sept. 25	Hugo Partida	Tucson	KO 4
Oct. 31	Mike Moreno	Phoenix	KO 4
Nov. 20	Greg Richardson	Atlantic City	W 12
	(Won USBA Super Bantam Title)		

SUMMARY

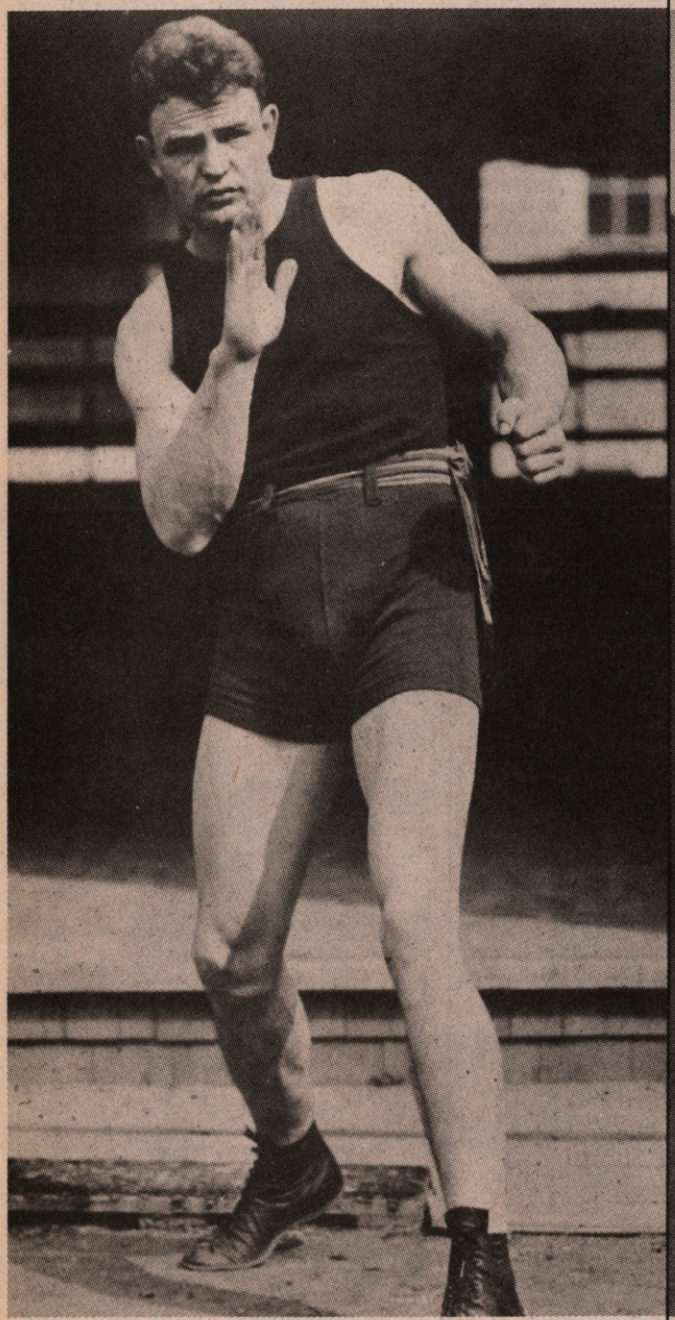
BOUTS	WINS	LOSSES	DRAWS	KOs
21	21	0	0	16

ASK THE ANSWERMAN

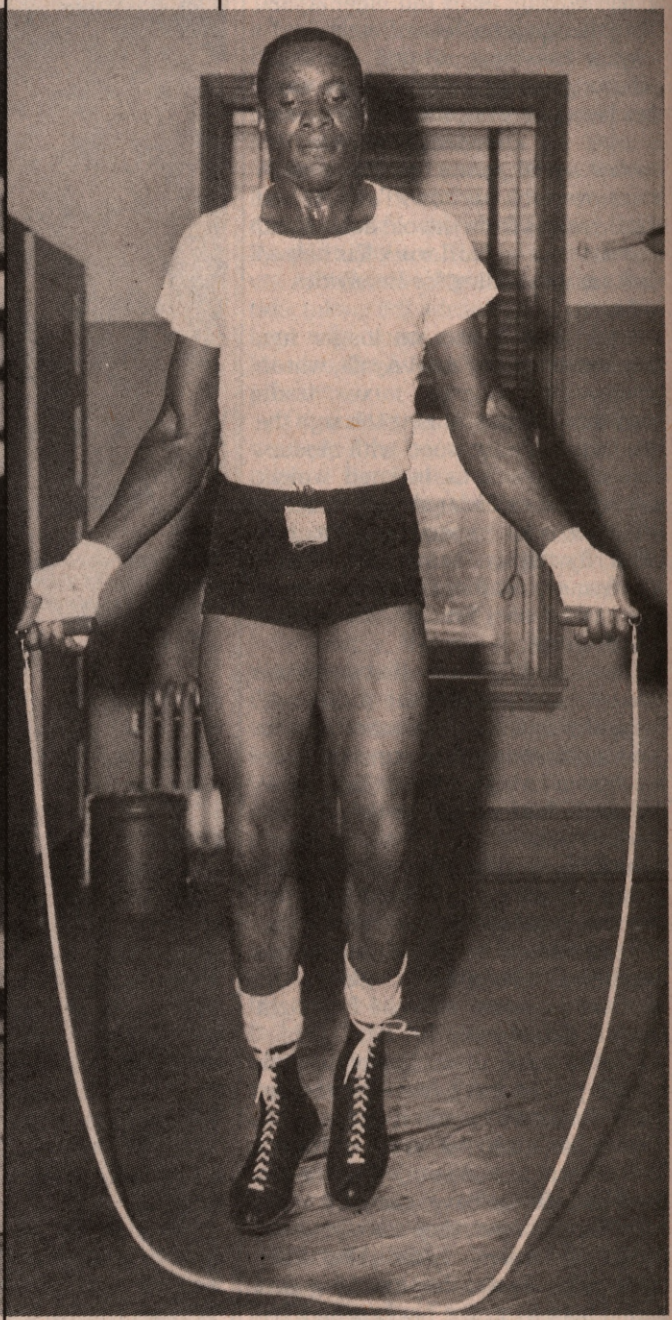
by Phill Marder

Q: Can you give me information on Keith Bristol? I would like to know his record, his wins, losses, KOs, etc., as well as who, when and where.

LINDA GONCALVES
East Boston, Mass.



The ill-fated "White Hope" Luther McCarty is the subject of reader Harry Otty's inquiry.



Reader Jim Cimarolli wants to know about Sonny Liston's early career and "The Answerman" comes through with the lowdown. The photograph seen here is of a very young Liston, minus mustache.

A: *Keith Bristol was born July 21, 1957 in Guyana but boxes out of Britain. He stands a bit over six-feet and is managed by Anthony Lavelle. As of January 1, 1987, Bristol had a record of 22-7 with 11 knockouts and two no contests. He had been stopped four times, by Ben Lawlor in 1981, a loss he avenged by TKO the next year, by Rufino Angulo and Dennis Andries in 1983 and by Andries again in 1986. The 1983 loss to Andries was for the Southern Area light heavyweight title, and Bristol sat out over a year before returning to action. He lost a 10-round decision to Andries in 1982 for the same belt. The 1986 loss to Andries was for the British light heavy crown. Bristol bounced back to knock out Harry Cowap in London. For all 29 names, dates and places, you need a copy of the 1986-87 Ring Record Book & Encyclopedia.*

Q: Recently I had a conversation with a gentleman who spent many years at sea. When he spoke about boxing, he told me that a long time ago he was a regular reader of *The Ring*. Now I know that sailors can spin some yarns, but he told me that he once saw a photo in your magazine of a boxer lying in the ring in the process of being counted out. In the photo, a shaft of light was shining down on the fighter who had been KO'd. Stranger still, the boxer in question died after the fight. Does such a shot exist and did the fighter in the picture die as a result of this contest?

HARRY OTTY
Liverpool, England

A: *Your sailor was spinning one of boxing's best-known tales, that of Luther McCarty, who was billed as a strong "White Hope" after Jack Johnson won the heavyweight championship. McCarty was matched with Arthur Pelky on May 24, 1913, in a Calgary, Canada barn. Pelky had shown possibilities, but was not considered a match for McCarty. Prior to the match, Tommy Burns, who promoted the bout, asked a local minister to deliver an invocation. The minister said, "In the midst of life, we are in death. Even these huge athletes are not immune. The giants and the weaklings must obey the inevitable law. These men, sitting here, awaiting the start of this fight, do not know when they will be struck down. Let all of us, then, resolve to live our lives so that when we are called, we shall not be found wanting." Minutes later, McCarty lay dead on the canvas. After a few brief exchanges, McCarty had suddenly collapsed, gasping for breath. He was counted out. Burns had built an arena, and the place was packed with 10,000 fans, all of whom thought they had been swindled. Mounted police had to ride in to clear the place. Meanwhile, the 21-year-old McCarty was still unconscious. The finish produced one of boxing's most famous photographs. The day had been cloudy, but as McCarty lay on the canvas being counted out by referee Ed Smith, a ray of sunshine broke through the wooden roof and focused on his prone form. It lasted only 10 seconds, but during that period the famous photo was recorded. It was ruled McCarty had died from natural causes. It was later determined that he had been injured shortly before the bout in a fall from a horse.*

Q: Can you give me any little known details on the early career of Sonny Liston and possibly an educated guess on his "real" date of birth?

JIM CIMAROLLI
Jim's Garage
Sulphur Springs, Texas

A: *Sonny Liston had an outstanding amateur career, winning a number of AAU and Golden Gloves titles. As a simon pure, he defeated Ed Sanders, who went on to win a gold medal in the 1952 Olympics. As a pro, he was fighting a main event in only his sixth bout. His one early loss came to Marty Marshall in his eighth pro bout. Liston suffered a broken jaw in an early round, but lasted the distance only to lose by decision. He later beat Marshall twice. Liston was forced to remain inactive from March, 1956, until January of 1958 because no one would fight him. He was too good for trialhorses and too dangerous for contenders. Liston's date of birth is officially listed as May 8, 1932, which made him 30 years old when he won the heavyweight championship and 32 when he lost it. That date of birth was provided by the Missouri State Penitentiary, where Liston resided for several years. But at the time Liston was reported to be 32, he supposedly had a daughter of 19. Not impossible, but . . . Oh, by the way, if my car ever breaks down in Sulphur Springs, you owe me one!*

Q: How come *The Ring* shows George "KO" Chaney with 86 KOs (page 21, October 1987 issue) when I can come up with a 1925 clipping that states Chaney was seeking his 125th knockout victory?

IVAN BUNNY COLITZ
Chicago, Illinois

A: *The clip Mr. Colitz sent along with his question indeed claims Chaney would be going for his 125th knockout in Philadelphia, July 7, 1925, against Young Leonard. However, Chaney's record has been researched and researched and the best we can come up with is 86 knockouts, a far cry from 125. Since Chaney's record shows him fighting nearly once a month for a period of 15 years, it's very unlikely he could have squeezed in another 39 knockout victories. What makes Mr. Colitz' clipping more dubious is that Chaney never fought anyone named Young Leonard, and he didn't fight in Philadelphia on July 7, 1925. Chaney had just two fights listed in 1925. He was knocked out in New York by Tommy O'Brien Feb. 23 and knocked out in Philadelphia by Danny Kramer August 10. The Cramer loss was a one-round affair and ended Chaney's career. All I can say, and I speak from 10 year's experience as a newspaper writer, is you can't believe everything you read in the papers!*

Q: On July 4, 1886, in a boxing match in New York, Calvin McCarthy got knocked out but won the match . . . supposedly without disqualification. How did this happen?

WAYNE BLESSING
Nevada, Iowa

A: *Well, readers. Here's your chance to help "The Answerman." If anyone knows the answer to Mr. Blessing's curious question, we'll be glad to print it in a future issue. Also, for those who write concerning the whereabouts of former fighters, keep an eye on Charlie Spina's "Veteran Boxers Beat." Your answers may turn up there. And for the many who write concerning video tapes, check the new ad from Vid-America.* □

SPECIAL LIMITED OFFER!
1984 RING RECORD BOOK AND ENCYCLOPEDIA

While reorganizing our back issues department, we unearthed a hidden treasure-trove of 1984 *Ring Record Book and Boxing Encyclopedias* in mint condition. These books originally sold for $29.95, but are now available to readers of *The Ring* for just $18.00, postage and handling included. A genuine collector's item featuring over a thousand pages of facts, figures and historic data at a cut-rate price. This offer is limited, so orders will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Act today!

Enclosed please find my check for $_____ for _____ copies of the *1984 Ring Record Book & Boxing Encyclopedia.* U.S. funds only. No Air Mail deliveries. Allow four to six weeks for overseas delivery.

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VETERAN BOXERS BEAT

by Charlie Spina

Filipino great Pancho Villa.

THIS MONTH WE TAKE A LOOK BACK AT Pancho Villa, the dynamic little Filipino who will go down in history as one of the greatest flyweights of all time.

Born Francisco Guilledo on August 1, 1901 in Iloilo, Philippine Islands, Villa was only a 90-pound youngster when he began his boxing career. He turned pro in 1919 with a four-round decision over Kid Castro in Manila. His first great rival was Mike Ballerino. The pair fought 10 exciting bouts, ranging from six to 20 rounds with Villa winning six. The best Ballerino could manage was two draws and two no decisions.

Frank A. Churchill, a well-known manager of the era, brought Villa to the United States in 1922 and Pancho became an instant success. In his Stateside debut, Villa fought a 12-round no decision bout with Abe Goldstein at Jersey City's famous Boyle's 30 Acres arena. Though it was a close contest, most sportswriters agreed Villa was ahead at the finish.

Villa's next two major bouts were against Frankie Genaro. The first was another no decision, but Pancho lost the second via another close decision. Despite some tough luck in these early bouts in the U.S., Villa won the American flyweight title by knocking out defending champ Johnny Buff less than a month after his loss to Genaro.

The same year he twice defended the title, outpointing Goldstein and Terry Martin, both over 15 rounds. However, Genaro continued to be a constant thorn in Villa's side, and Pancho lost the American 112-pound belt when the crafty Genaro outslicked him again in March of '23.

Undaunted, Villa came back to capture the world flyweight crown when he kayoed Jimmy Wilde in seven rounds, June 19, 1923 in New York City.

Villa still held the flyweight belt when he entered the ring with an ulcerated tooth against Jimmy McLarnin on July 4, 1925 in Oakland, California. McLarnin won the non-title bout, but Villa suffered more than just a ring defeat. He developed blood poisoning from the infected tooth and died 10 days later in San Francisco.

Villa tallied an overall pro record of 71-4-4 (23 no decisions) with 22 KOs to his credit. He was elected to *The Ring*'s boxing Hall of Fame in 1961. Villa was, along with Flash Elorde, the greatest fighter the Philippines has ever developed.

VETERAN BOXERS NOTES:

The Connecticut Boxing Guild held its 39th annual awards dinner, honoring former boxers Lou Bogash Jr. and Eddie "Moore" Petrovick at My Dad's Restaurant in Meridian. Bogash is the son of the great 20's middleweight, Lou Sr., who once fought a 12-round draw with Jack Britton for the welter title. Lou Jr. currently works as a referee. Moore, who once held the Connecticut lightweight crown, had a 12-year career which totaled 118 bouts ... The VBA (Ring 25) of Essex, Morris and Union counties of New Jersey, held its annual Christmas party for the St. Peter's Orphanage at the Biases Restaurant in Newark. The sellout affair also honored Harry Serio, Tommy Giordano, Pierre Benoist and Tommy Amico ... The VBA (Ring 4) Boston installed the following officers for 1988: Danny Wambolt, president; Eddie Bangs, first vice-president; Buddy Hayes, second vice-president; Ed Fitzgerald, treasurer; and Bob Mallard, secretary. Dan Doherty was added to the Board of Directors ... Ring 4 also held its Christmas party, an event which saw Willie Pep, Tony DeMarco, Al Couture, Paul Junior and Tommy Rawson at the head table. The same night, Ring 4 installed the late Tommy "Greb" Consolo and Rip Valente into the organization's Hall of Fame. Rita Greb and Al Valente were on hand to accept plaques on behalf of their loved ones. Boston will host this year's National VBA Convention. More details on this event in the future ... The Washington D.C. boxing Hall of Fame held its ninth annual banquet this past November at the Touchdown Club. Inducted were former pros Jackie Cranford, Little Dynamite and Garry Garber. Amateur inductees were Tommy Larner, Wilber Mason and Vince Palumbo. Honored for outstanding contributions to boxing were Judge Jack Follin, Bobby Parsons, York Van Nixon, Ray Iannucci and Truman Tuttle. Malcolm A. Campbell was the Master of Ceremonies ... Andy DiVodi, former welter of the 20s and 30s, is presently in a convalescent home in Sunnyvale, California. DiVodi was one helluva fighter and won his first 45 bouts before being kayoed by Mushy Callahan. During his career, he faced nine former champions. Get well soon, Al.

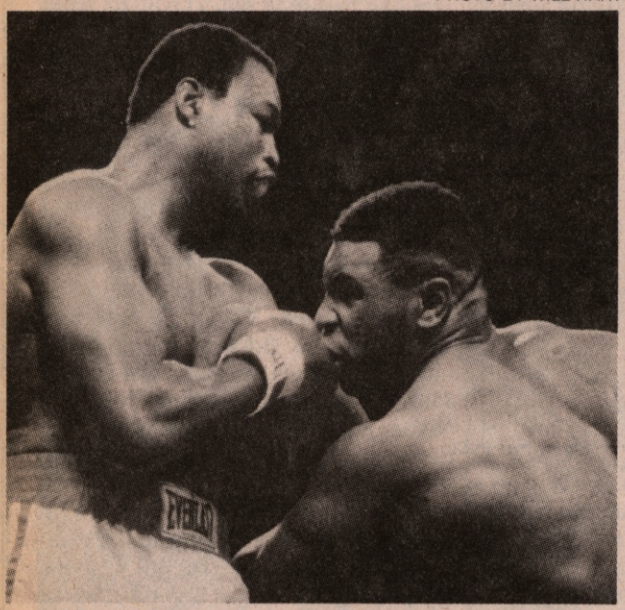
THE LAST ROUND:

Billy Celebron, 77, died at his home in Rockford, Illinois, December 11, 1987. Celebron was a former Golden Gloves and National AAU champion. As a pro he won and drew with Tony Zale and also won and lost with Fritzie Zivic. Celebron served with the U.S. Marines in World War II and later owned and operated several Chicago area taverns ... Rudy Cruz, 62, died of cancer January 8, 1988 at the City of Hope Medical Center in Durate, California. A former lightweight contender, Cruz beat Jimmy Carter in 1949 and lost two decisions to Ike Williams. May Billy and Rudy both rest in peace. □

Ring Side Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

PHOTO BY WILL HART



Larry Holmes (right) and Mike Tyson go head-to-head during the early going of their bout in Atlantic City. Tyson made short work of the aging ex-champ, stopping Holmes in Round Four. The impressive victory also made "Iron Mike" THE RING'S Fighter of the Month.

IT WASN'T MUCH OF A FIGHT, BUT **MIKE TYSON'S** four-round blitz of ex-champion Larry Holmes was enough to earn "Iron Mike" this month's top honors. Tyson's attack is one of the most devastating in the history of the heavyweight division and the aging Holmes didn't stand a chance once the combined WBA/WBC/IBF titleholder found the range for his leather-encased atomic bombs.

Runner-up spot goes to Philadelphia featherweight **Calvin Grove,** who came off the floor to capture the IBF 126-pound crown with a fourth-round TKO over defending champ Antonio Rivera.

Honorable mentions are awarded to Thailand's **Sot Chitalada,** who defended his world flyweight title with a seventh-round stoppage of Japan's Hideaki Kamishiro, and **Hiroki Ioka** of Japan, who TKO'd Korean Kyung-Yon Lee in the 12th round in defense of his WBC "strawweight" title. □

DAMIANI-GAYMON

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ — AFTER what Mike Tyson did in the main event against Larry Holmes, it's easy to imagine no one wanting to fight him. But that very evening challengers were eagerly lining up, both in and around the ring at Atlantic City Convention Hall.

"For all the fighters who've been saying Tyson's not all that good, keep coming to the fights so you can take lessons," Tyson advised.

Most notable among those with wares on display was Italian Olympic super heavyweight Francesco Damiani. Having finished as a silver medalist behind Tyrell Biggs is hardly a recommendation to take on Tyson, but the Italian's barrel-house style is more suited to the pros, anyway, and he seems to have at least honed, if not upgraded, his skills.

Coming in 19-0, Damiani, 229, Milan, made a meal of Dorcey Gaymon, 226, Jacksonville, Florida, in a scheduled 10. A rangy, awkward spoiler who carried a respectable 19-5-1 slate, Gaymon isn't easy to lick and he's downright tough to look good against. But Damiani managed both with seeming ease. Vaguely reminiscent of Rocky Marciano, Damiani fought according to the tenet that the best defense is a good offense. He charged right at Gaymon, brushing aside Dorcey's attempts to smother the no-frills assault with his octopus reach. The Italian showed a good mix of punches, over and under, plus a deceptive quickness. The desperately groping Gaymon was slammed in every round until he ran out of options and simply turned away in his corner. Ref Joe O'Neil administered a standing eight, noticed Gaymon's pronounced lack of enthusiasm and stopped it at 2:12 of the fourth.

Despite Damiani's strong performance, his promoter, Umberto Branchini, is understandably nervous about his charge facing Tyson. The concern will doubtless be resolved by the size of the purse versus what an undemolished Damiani could be expected to earn around Europe. Should he go the Tyson route, he can at least be counted on to offer a battle, if not a threat.

(1-22-88)

J.R. JOWETT

DE LEON-FLORES

WBC Cruiserweight Title

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ — FEW who witnessed the last extravaganza at Atlantic City Convention Hall would have thought the promoter could make a worse title fight than Matthew Hilton-Jack Callahan, but he succeeded!

At least Callahan tried, which is more than can be said for Jose "Burlon" Flores. His nickname means "Joker," and that's about the attitude he showed in his WBC cruiserweight title chance against Carlos DeLeon.

In a late replacement for a DeLeon-Pinklon Thomas non-title match, Flores, 189, made virtually nothing of his opportunity to become the first world titleholder from Uruguay. Flores was as far from a "hungry" Latin fighter as Garfield is from The Tasmanian Devil. He tried an occasional counter, as if he hoped to get lucky in the casino city. But his swings were too wide, with DeLeon falling inside to be mauled instead of hit.

Meanwhile, the titleholder from San Juan, 188, did just enough to win and nothing to impress. With Evander Holyfield in the crowd, DeLeon seemed careful not to make his bauble worth prizing. After 12 dreary rounds, the fans were too stunned to even boo.

Carol Castellano voted 118-111, Thomas Kaczmarek, 119-110, and Joan Ortega of California, 118-110. Frank Cappuccino refereed.

The winner, who owes more favors to the WBC than Mayor Daly owed the Party, became 47-4, with the loser dropping to 84-10-7, Neither defendant appeared after to face the charges.

The undercard was a showcase of "house" fighters. The "opponents" seemed glad to be included in the festivities and tried not to offend. At 240, Michael Dokes, Las Vegas, looked more like a contender for a Sumo title as he huffed and puffed to a TKO over Ken Lakusta, 214½, Edmonton, Alberta, at 2:52 of the seventh, scheduled 10. Lakusta jolted Dokes with two rights in the fifth, but failed to press his advantage. Two rounds later, Dokes trapped the Canadian in a corner, roasted his body, then brought up two rights to the head that buckled his knees and produced a knockdown. He was rocked again when O'Neil stopped it, dropping Lakusta to 25-12, while Dokes became 32-1-2.

Unbeaten Davey Hilton Jr., 160¼, Rigaud, Quebec, won his 25th but got a scare with a majority verdict over Hector Rosario, 165, The Bronx, in. 10. Despite the close scoring, Rosario boxed well within himself and the fight was more like a gym session. Milo Savage scored 96-96, Phil Newman, 96-95, and Joe Pasquale 97-93, Hilton's less frivolous approach deserving the nod. Ref, Paul Venti.

John Mugabi, 162½, Kampala, Uganda, belted out Bryan Grant, 158½, Memphis, at 2:51 of the second of a scheduled six. The grossly overmatched kid at least put up a determined effort, jolting Mugabi as long as he could stay in his chest. The two continued mixing well after the end of the first, but once the African got some room the club fighter got clubbed. Grant was brutally blasted down along the ropes, but still protested O'Neil's stoppage. Mugabi went to 27-2, Grant 12-3.

Mike "The Bounty" Hunter, 205, Los Angeles, outwitted Oliver McCall, 221, Chicago, for a unanimous win in a tedious six. Hunter went to 11-2-2, while McCall became 11-2. Ref, Venti.

Freddie Del Gado, 184, San Juan, dropped and TKO'd Don Crudup, 176, Baltimore, when he ran smack into one big right at 1:00 of the first, scheduled four. Ref, Venti.

Promoter: Don King Productions.
Attendance: 17,000 (est.).
TV: HBO.
Timekeeper: Lindsey Tucker.
Announcer: Mike Buffer.
(1-22-88)

J.R. JOWETT

LEE-SANABRIA

POHANG, KOREA — SLICK-punching Seung-Hoon Lee, 122, successfully kept his IBF junior featherweight throne by taking a split, but popular decision from Jose Sanabria, a taller Venezuelan at 122, in 15 hard-fought rounds at Pohang Indoor Gymnasium.

The win was Lee's third defense of the title he gained with a nine-round KO of Thai Prayunsak Muangsurin. Sanabria, two years Lee's junior at 25, emerged as a highly ranked contender with a couple of important wins over Kronk boys, a fifth-round stoppage of Steve McCrory and an impressive decision over Hurley Snead.

The fight opened with each probing with stinging lefts, and the upright stylists exchanged good jabs in the second session, which Jose took by a small margin. Lee connected with fast one-twos and occasional body shots, winning the third and fourth sessions. The Venezuelan relied on his left, while Lee concentrated on getting close to work over Sanabria's body.

Lee dominated the seventh and eighth sessions, but the challenger, combining his right cross with his jab, appeared strong in the ninth and 10th. The defending champ showed his best over the last two rounds, though Sanabria opened a slight cut on Lee's eyebrow in the 12th. Lee swarmed over Sanabria, pinning him to the ropes, with the challenger trying to grab to avoid Lee's attack.

The verdict saw Eduardo Velasco of the Philippines and Korea's Chul-Hee Han score 146-141 and 147-143, respectively, for Lee, while Puerto Rico's Rafael Ramos went for Sanabria, 144-143.

Sanabria's corner protested the decision, but a rematch will not take place as Lee will relinquish his IBF throne in order to soon have a crack at the WBA crown. The champion, one of the Orient's most skillful boxers, improved to 41-6 with 23 knockouts, while Sanabria impaired to 14-2-2 with five kayoes. The IBF champ earned about $35,000, with Sanabria taking home $15,000.

The semi-windup saw Kyung-Dok Ahn, the WBC's seventh-ranked super lightweight, 142¼, hit the deck only to fight back to win a unanimous nod from Filipino Ruben Rabago, 143, in 10. Rabago decked Ahn with a good left hook in Round Four, but the Filipino failed to put forth enough effort to win more points and Ahn wound up winning the dull affair. Ahn is 24-1 with 10 KOs, while the 32-year-old Rabago fell to 25-10-4 with eight KOs.

Sung-Ho Shin, 126, became the new Korean featherweight kingpin by beating Si-Il Kim, 125¼, on points in 10. Shin is 11-1-3 with two KOs. Kim impaired to 11-3-2 with nine KOs.

Promoter: Kukdong Promotions.
TV: KBS TV, Korea.
(12-27-87)

JOE KOIZUMI

VASQUEZ-MUGURUMA
WBA Bantamweight Title

OSAKA, JAPAN — WBA BANtamweight champion Wilfredo Vasquez barely kept his crown as he was held to a disputed draw by former champ and local favorite Takuya Muguruma in 12 hard-fought rounds.

There were no knockdowns, but it was total war.

Muguruma, a Gene Fullmer stylist who weighed the class limit of 118, a half-pound more than Vasquez, concentrated on a relentless body attack all the way. Vasquez responded to the challenger's reckless rallies with fewer, but more effective left hooks and right crosses. If the bout had been in the United States, Vasquez probably would have won a unanimous decision due to his more accurate blows. However, using the traditional Japanese scoring standard that rewards aggressiveness rather than a few effective shots, Muguruma seemed to the crowd to be the winner.

Judge Fritz Warner of the United States saw the give-and-take battle 115-115. Judge Julio Roldan of Venezuela carded 116-114 for Muguruma, but Patricia Jarman of the United States had it 117-112 for Vasquez.

On March 29, 1987, Muguruma acquired the WBA's vacant title, relinquished by Bernardo Pinango, by stopping Panamanian Azael Moran in five furious rounds in Moriguchi, Japan. But he lost it to Korean Chan-Yung Park via an 11th-round TKO about two months later. Park yielded the crown to Vasquez by a 10th-round stoppage October 4. The busy change of titlist ended, for awhile with Vasquez' defense.

In the first round Vasquez caught the nervous challenger with vicious left hooks and overhand rights, almost toppling him with his opening attacks. But the second round saw Muguruma commence with his determined body bombardments. The Japanese puncher nailed the Puerto Rican to the ropes with his

insistent body blows, while Vasquez tried to cover with his elbows, occasionally retaliating with left hooks.

In the third to fifth rounds the pattern was similar. Muguruma pinned Vasquez to the ropes or in a corner with flurries of punches, most of which Vasquez avoided. Though on the defensive, Vasquez responded with a few wicked left hooks to the cheek and temple of Muguruma.

The defending champion changed his strategy in the sixth round and began to use his footwork to keep his distance. Muguruma, a willing mixer, had difficulty catching the elusive champ, who took the sixth and seventh sessions by slight margins. In addition, Muguruma's right eye was badly swollen, making it difficult for him to see, particularly over the final three rounds. The 27-year-old Muguruma won the eighth, with Vasquez, a year younger, winning the ninth.

The 10th was a difficult session to score. Vasquez averted mixing at close range, scoring with occasional lefts and rights. But Muguruma cornered him with a barrage of short punches in the closing seconds. The 11th was clearly taken by the challenger, who landed one-twos, left hooks and uppercuts to the midsection.

The last round decided, but Muguruma was obviously exhausted by his over-heated attacks in the earlier rounds, and Vasquez caught him repeatedly with good shots.

After, Vasquez, relieved at the close of his first defense in a foreign ring, said, "Muguruma had an incredible fighting spirit. He took my best shots."

The challenger, appearing angry at the decision, proclaimed, "I should be the winner!" But he was bruised and required hospitalization for the treatment of his closed eye.

Vasquez is 32-3-1 with 29 KOs and one no contest, while Muguruma is 26-2-2 with 20 KOs.

Though people here were still talking about the decision the next day, an immediate rematch will not happen as Vasquez will be obliged to meet the WBA's top contender, Kaokor Galaxy, an unbeaten Thai lefty and twin brother of the WBA's junior bantamweight champ. If Muguruma is ranked No. 1 thanks to this draw he will be given a chance to face the winner of the Vasquez-Galaxy fight. By that time his badly swollen face will be recovered.

Referee: Larry Rozadilla.
Promoter: Kiyoshi Yoshii's Osaka Teiken Promotions.
Attendance: 7,000 (est.).
TV: Kansai Television.
(1-17-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

GAMEZ-KIM
WBA Minimumweight Title

PUSAN, KOREA — VENezuelan Leo Gamez, 104½, became the first champion of the WBA's newly created minimum class as he was awarded a very unpopular, but inexplicably unanimous decision over the much more aggressive Bong-Jun Kim, also 104½, in a 12-round eliminator.

The WBA decided to establish this new division with a 105-pound weight limit at its last convention, matching these two top contenders for the title in Kudok Gymnasium. The official scoresheets had Panama's Rodolfo Hill and Puerto Rico's Wiso Fernandez each seeing it 116-115, with Puerto Rico's Roberto Ramirez calling it 115-114, all for Gamez, who was totally battered. *The Ring* scored 118-112 for Kim!

When the decision was announced, the crowd was greatly startled and this reporter almost fled ringside for fear of a riot. But the Korean fans didn't throw chairs or paper, instead tossing flowers into the ring to show their disapproval.

The 22-year-old Kim appeared a very obvious winner due to his aggressiveness through the entire bout. Gamez, two years older, was repeatedly pinned to the ropes where he usually absorbed a rain of punches.

Gamez did take the first round by a slight margin, scoring with good one-twos and right uppercuts. But from the second to the ninth it became a very onesided fight as Kim, two inches taller at 5-3, overwhelmed Gamez at close range. Occasionally Gamez threw a powerful left hook that missed the target, but for the most part, particularly in rounds four and six, he was pinned to the ropes.

Gamez showed his best

Leo Gamez (left) ducks low to avoid the attack of Bong-Jun Kim during their clash for the WBA "minimumweight" title in Pusan, Korea. Though Gamez received the official nod, it was not a popular decision with the fans.

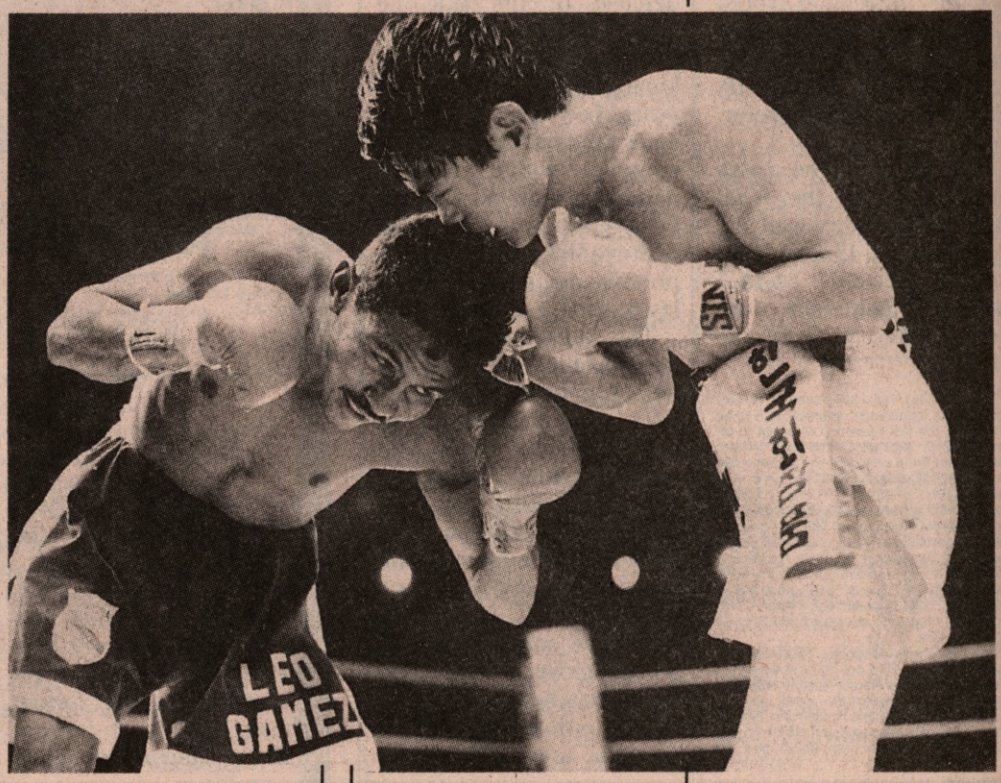


PHOTO BY JOE KOIZUMI

only in the 10th when he suddenly began to use his footwork and scored solid uppercuts. But any thought of a Gamez comeback was thwarted by Kim, who regained command in the last two frames.

The decision turned Kim pale, leaving him dejected and crestfallen. Some Korean fans burst into tears at the unbelievable nod. Gamez hadn't shown anything except for a few solid shots in the 10th round, yet emerged 18-0 with 11 KOs as Kim fell to 13-5-3 with four KOs.

After, Alan Kim, manager of the loser, and Korean Commission international coordinator Mung-Pil Chung demanded a rematch from WBA president Gilberto Mendoza, who watched the fight here. Mendoza confirmed a second encounter within 120 days, with Gamez permitted an optional defense prior to the rematch.

In the semifinal unbeaten Yun-Un Chin, the KBC's top flyweight contender, 114, survived a knockdown to decision rough-and-tumble Filipino Romeo Opriasa, also 114, in 10. Chin was forced to retreat to avoid Romeo's roundhouse blows, but scored with more accurate punches in the later rounds. He is 13-0 with six KOs.

Promoter: 88 (Palpal) Promotions.
Referee: Lou Moret.
TV: KBS TV of Korea.
(1-10-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

GROVE-RIVERA
IBF Featherweight Title

GAMACHES, FRANCE — Calvin Grove of Coatesville, Pa. came off the floor to stop Puerto Rico's Antonio Rivera in the fourth round of a scheduled 15-round IBF featherweight title fight.

Grove, fighting out of Houston, was dropped by a left hook in the opening seconds of the fourth. The challenger appeared beaten, but grabbed the ropes with his left glove and pulled himself to his knees as referee Rudy Battle tolled the count.

Grove, cut under the right eye, made it to his feet and wrestled Rivera, who was making his initial title defense.

The cobwebs clearing, Grove made a dramatic comeback as Rivera attempted to finish him off. The challenger landed a right uppercut, followed with a left hook, then floored Rivera with a right. Rivera got up quickly, but Grove pushed him into a corner and fired away until a Rivera left uppercut forced him to temporarily give ground.

Suddenly, Grove landed a right uppercut and a left hook, and Rivera slid to the canvas, his back against the ring post. Again Rivera got up, but another volly by Grove prompted Battle to step in with 48 seconds remaining in the sensational session.

The victory kept Grove undefeated at 32-0.
(1-23-88)

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U.S. Department of Labor

THE COMEBACK CONTINUES

Foreman Sets Sights On Tyson

bu Jack Welsh

BOB ARUM MAY BE ON THE VERGE OF acquiring a new sobriquet — the miracle worker — if he can produce his midsummer night's dream of guiding George Foreman to a second chance at the heavyweight championship. Of course, by the time you read this Big George might be back in Houston thumping the Bible instead of belting out the collection of "opponents" Uncle Bob has lined up. But that's highly unlikely when the next sched-

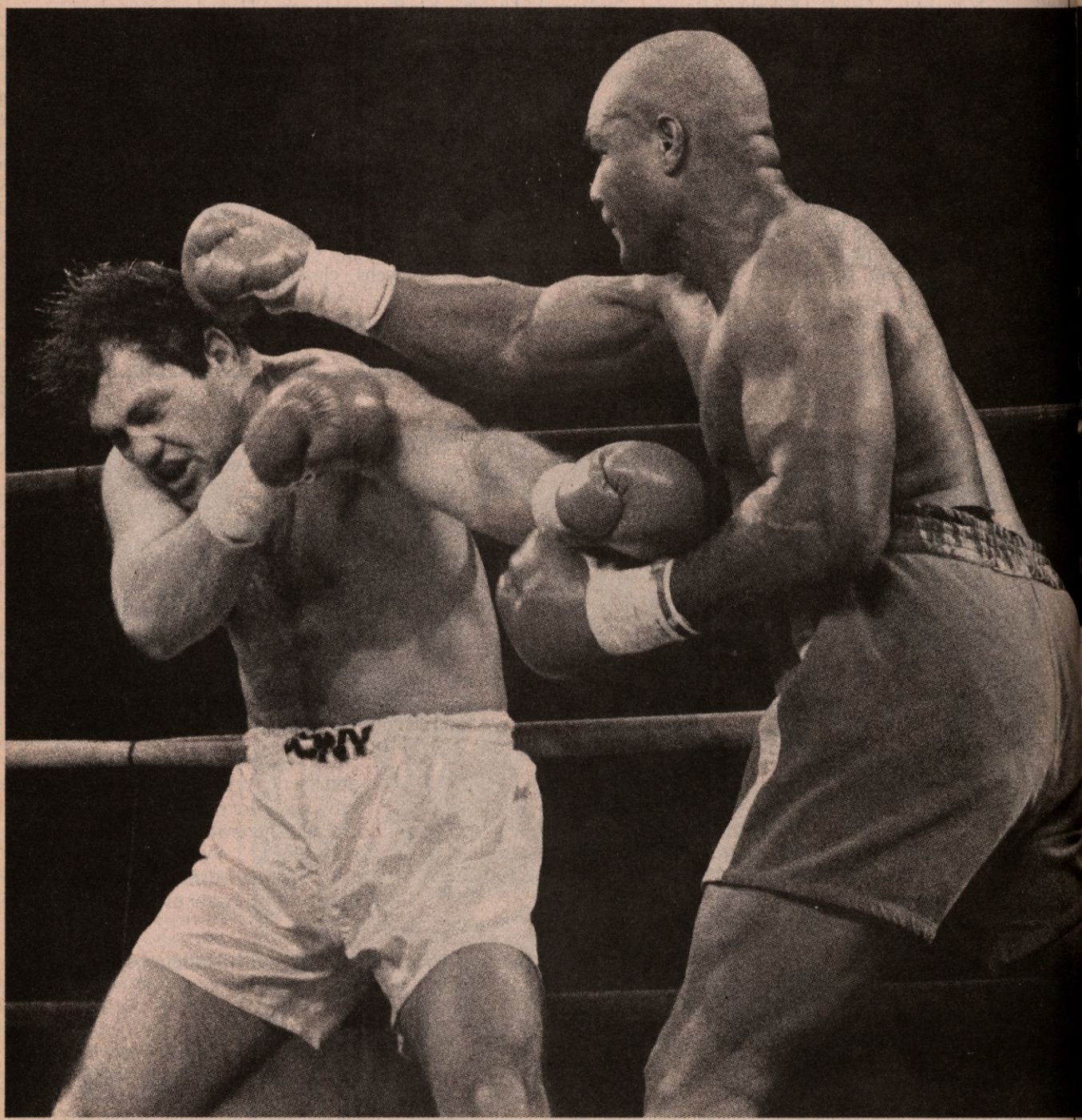


PHOTO BY MARC MORRISON

Foreman delivers a right to the head of Rocky Sekorski en route to a third-round TKO victory in Las Vegas. Whatever his shortcomings, "Big George" can still punch with the best of them.

uled victim is that renowned Swede, Anders Eklund.

Foreman, still remembered for the African classic when Muhammad Ali created "rope-a-dope" to win back the heavyweight crown in Kinshasa, Zaire in 1974, became part of Arum's livery when he was invited to Las Vegas last October to confer with the promoter while Thomas Hearns hammered down the wild bid of Juan Domingo Roldan.

The gentle giant from Texas turned 40 January 22, ironically the same night Mike Tyson proved sand in the hour glass doesn't flip-flop, viciously re-retiring a courageous but spent Larry Holmes in Atlantic City.

Unmoved by Holmes' failure to turn back the calendar, a 243-pound Foreman was in Orlando, Florida the next night trimming someone named Tom Trimm (another nondescript boxer with a 26-12-1 record) less than a minute into the opening round. The quick punchout attracted little attention over the wire services, but it triggered another return to Caesars Palace two weeks later where Foreman once turned in one of his most spectacular outings, twice getting off the floor to stop Ron Lyle in one of heavyweight history's most explosive bouts.

This time George was in with Guido Trane, a Paisan in his first Atlantic crossing as Italian heavyweight titleholder. Once again, the Foreman might — and perhaps myth — was rekindled when the ex-champ stopped his man in five rounds, an exercise viewed nationally via ESPN.

The triumph was the Houston Hammer's seventh straight since ending a 10-year hiatus from boxing with a fourth-round kayo over Steve Zouski, March 9, 1987 in Sacramento. This march through unranked, untalented and unknown opposition has pushed his career record (going back to 1969) to 52-2 with 49 knockouts.

However, it has been religion, not knockouts, which has turned Foreman's life around.

"Ten years ago the best thing that could happen to me was to find a nice horse or a dog to be buddies with. But when you find the ministry you get a certain understanding," Foreman explained. "The next thing you know, the greatest creation of all is not a sports car, but a human being. For the last 10 years, I've loved being around people . . . joking, laughing. I've learned man's best friend is not a dog, but another man, another woman.

"Sometimes, things can happen too quickly and you don't appreciate where you are. You start saying and doing anything you want. But for the last few years, I've been really happy because I found out the best things in life are free . . . truly free. I've been able to find out what they are and hold on tight to them."

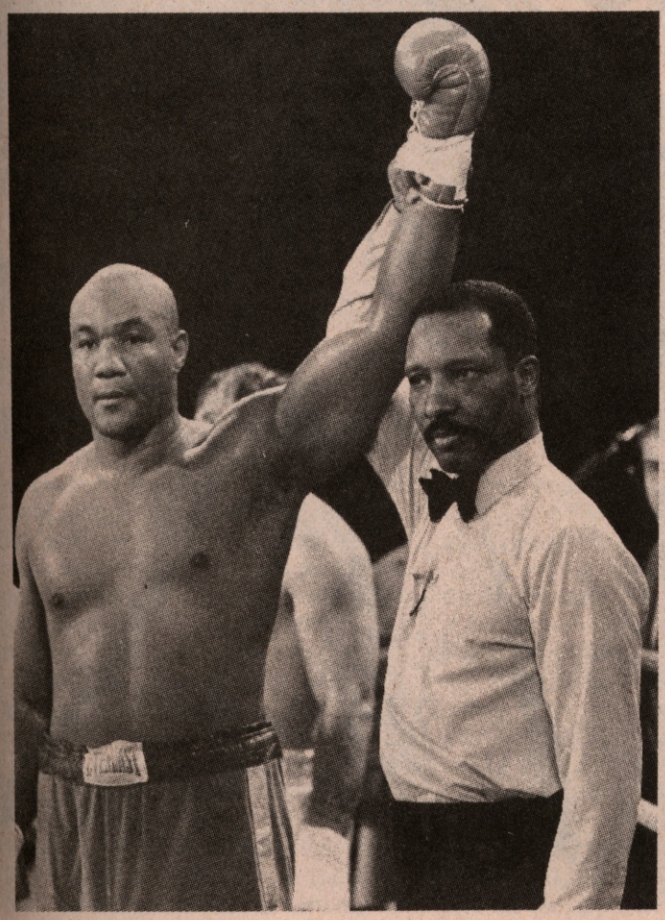
Just like the late, great comedian Jack Benny long insisted, Foreman still likes to tell everybody, "I'm only 39." But *The Ring Record Book* discloses he was born January 22, 1948 in Marshall, Texas, where he still owns a 250-acre ranch, 200 miles east of Houston. The natal event was 25 years to the day Foreman ruined Smokin' Joe Frazier's invincibility to win the title with a stunning two-round knockout in Kingston, Jamaica.

Arum and his associates feel there is a place for the 1968 Olympic heavyweight champion in the Tyson title sweepstakes, even in the face of a reputed $30 million showdown between "Iron Mike" and Michael Spinks, the IBF's defrocked ruler still recognized as world champion by *The Ring*.

"I never tried to promote Foreman when he was champion because I didn't like the people who were managing him. But I'm not talking about his trainers, Dick Sadler, Archie Moore and Sandy Saddler," advised Arum. "Ron Weathers, who is an adviser for Top Rank in Texas, called me about Foreman. At first, I wasn't interested. Then Foreman called me. He wanted to meet, so I invited him to Vegas the week of the Hearns-Roldan fight. Later, I had Bruce Trampler, my western matchmaker, check George out and he suggested we take a chance. I'm astounded, but it looks like Foreman is getting better.

"George told me in the beginning if he didn't think he had a chance to win a Tyson fight, he wouldn't do it regardless of the money. But on the outcome, nobody knows until they get into the ring. But if George struggles with opponents on the way to a fight with Tyson, it will be ludicrous to even consider such a fight. Of course, nobody knew what Sugar Ray Leonard would do against Hagler until he did it."

Foreman is proud of the way he has pared down from 300-plus pounds



Referee Richard Steele raises Foreman's massive arm following another comeback victory.

PHOTO BY MARC MORRISON

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Once uncomfortable in the public spotlight, Foreman has emerged gregarious and witty the second time around.

since hitting the comeback trail.

"I had walked around for nine years weighing 320 pounds, eating and doing what I wanted. So when I went back to the ring at 260 and people said I was overweight, I'd look at them like they were crazy," Foreman told *The Ring*. "I felt like I was a streamlined young man. Before I ever started thinking about boxing again, I was working with kids, directing them away from trouble and giving my attention to the church. I just wasn't interested in (pro) sports.

"I was teaching the kids boxing and weightlifting, and the next thing I knew I was in the ring sparring with them. The kids started telling me I should come back. At 39, I never considered people would say I'm old. I can still hit hard, I can jump out of the way (of punches) ... I'm a boxer. I know how to fight in the ring, so why not? I feel a lot better doing it now than I did 10 years ago.

"When I was champion, I'd run only three or four miles a day. When I started back this time, I ran seven to 10 miles a day ... and I enjoy it. Before, I'd only spend 45 minutes in the gym. Now the daily schedule is usually an hour and one-half. I'm hitting the bag harder now. My legs are stronger. All the pictures of George Foreman the young fighter are off the wall back home. I'm looking for new trophies, new records. I know the George Foreman of 10 years ago couldn't beat the George Foreman of today."

As gregarious as Foreman has emerged during his second coming, he stays within himself discussing his family. As we go to press, George and Joann (his fifth wife) are expecting a baby to join a clan which already includes daughters Michi, Georgette, Leona and Freda, and sons George Jr. and George III.

"I'm getting to be a celebrity around the house again," said Foreman with a grin. "For the last four years my wife, Joann, would argue with me about taking out the garbage. Once I started doing road work and my muscles started showing again, she never asked me to take out the garbage again."

Foreman's parents are also still very much a part of his life. Though they remain among his most devoted fans, Nancy and J.D. Foreman are separated and sit on opposite sides of the aisle in the church where he preaches Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays — even when in training for a fight. Pappa Foreman also works full time as a caretaker at George's First Church of Jesus Christ.

"I'm a full-time pastor who is moonlighting as a boxer. But the reason I came back is M-O-N-E-Y and a chance to win back the title," admitted George. "Boxing was my profession and I was able to get in at a young age and make some money. Then I realized as the years went by that I needed more money for my charitable enterprises."

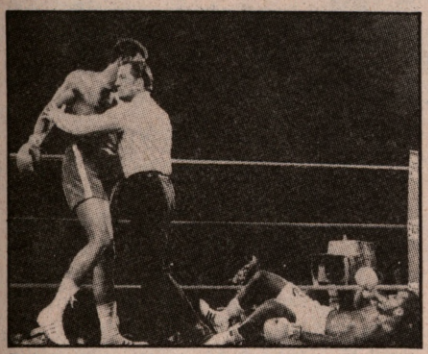
Yes, George is back. But is there really a serious chance he'll fight Tyson?

"We are not giving George Foreman any credibility at the moment," said Bill Cayton, Tyson's co-manager. "However, if he beats one of the top five contenders, we'd definitely give him some consideration for the future."

Arum — and perhaps the paying public — is justified in asking, "Why Not?" After all, Tyson's immediate future includes Tony Tubbs in Tokyo, Frank Bruno (if the Spinks bout stalls) in London and Francesco Damiani in Italy.

GEORGE RECALLS

Foreman Takes A Trip Down Memory Lane



Referee Arthur Mercante directed Foreman to a neutral corner as Joe Frazier lies stunned on the canvas. Foreman won the world heavyweight championship with a spectacular second-round knockout.

DURING THE COURSE OF HIS INTERview with the *The Ring's* Jack Welsh, George Foreman reminisced about some of the most memorable moments of his early career.

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO, 1968 — Foreman wins the Olympic heavyweight championship with a second-round knockout over Iones Chepulis of the USSR:

"When I won the gold medal I wanted everybody to know I was from the United States of America. So when we took our customary bows to the judges, I waved a small American flag I had in my robe. That's when I wound up on the front pages of newspapers all over the country. It's something I'll never forget, standing on the platform. They put the gold medal around your neck, they give you the Olympic wreath and you're listening to the national anthem. There's nothing in sports to beat it. That moment from the Olympics can never be repeated."

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, JAN. 23, 1973 — Foreman kayoes Joe Frazier in the second round to win the heavyweight championship of the world:

"I thought, 'Well, sure ... maybe Joe Frazier will have an accident on his motorcycle.' I kept hoping something would happen. Coming up to the fight, I was scared. I didn't know what to do because I had seen Frazier fight Jerry Quarry. I remember thinking this guy's so tough, if you hit him, he likes it. I remember how he threw that famous left hook. It went swooooossssh, sounding like a bullet passing my head. That's when I started thinking what I had to do. I didn't want to get hit by that left hook, so I knocked him out."

KINSHASA, ZAIRE, OCT. 30, 1974 — Muhammad Ali kayoes Foreman in the famous "Rumble in the Jungle" to regain the heavyweight title:

"Something happened in that fight because I couldn't believe anybody could beat me. I gave it all I had against Ali and got knocked out. I lost the heavyweight championship of the world and it devastated my life. I kept telling myself something was wrong when I got home. I said I had to prove myself and that's when I decided to fight five different guys in one day (April 26, 1975) in Toronto. I whipped 'em all because they got tired of whipping on me." □

PHOTO BY MARC MORRISON

Foreman with chief adviser Archie Moore. Hall-of-Famer Moore, who was almost 50 when he fought Cassius Clay, should be able to teach Foreman a trick or two about prolonging his career.

The blessing here for the American boxing purist is that the tainted trio is overseas.

"I talked with Jim Jacobs (the other half of Tyson's managerial team) a few days after Tyson's fight with Holmes and we're in agreement that a fight with Foreman is a possibility ... perhaps sometime this year," Arum said. "It depends on what happens and if George can reach a top 10 rating. We're talking about recognizable names in the U.S. ... people like Trevor Berbick, Pinklon Thomas and Tim Witherspoon. Any of those three would be outstanding opponents for Foreman."

Arum does not believe the unmasking of Holmes as a 38-year-old fighting relic will loom as a detriment in Foreman's campaign to regain the heavyweight title he lost to Ali.

"The difference is Holmes went against Tyson untested. Since he stayed at home in Easton to train, there weren't any open workouts. The public hadn't seen Holmes in 22 months. Foreman will be an open book. The public can make up its own mind. They will have seen George fight and they will have seen him train. Right now, it is more of getting the idea to the public that Foreman is back, rather than testing him too early."

Top Rank's board chairman, who sometimes startles the press with outlandish statements, contends he's not trying to create an illusion.

"I really believe Tyson-Foreman would be bigger than Tyson-Spinks because the man on the street really doesn't think Spinks can win, whereas he does give Foreman a chance, on his size and power, to beat Tyson. As far as I'm concerned, I'm not sure Foreman can beat Tyson, but the Foreman I remember back in the 70s would have knocked Tyson cold.

"If we can get Foreman back in the best possible shape ... but at 40, I don't know. People say athletes are over the hill at 40, but look at Jersey Joe Walcott, who won the title at 37 and Archie Moore, who knocked down Rocky Marciano at 42. Remember, George didn't take too much punishment."

Arum's contention that people haven't forgotten the former champ with howitzers for fists seemed to hold up when he brought Foreman to Las Vegas a week before Christmas for a 10-rounder on ESPN at Bally's on the Strip. Foreman pulled a record-breaking 2,500 fans into Bally's ballroom to see him pummel Rocky Sekorski into a TKO defeat 2:48 into the third round on a night when Yule shoppers should have been thinking of different bells.

Arum also reported the fight drew a 4.6 rating on the Neilsen chart, where 2.0 is considered strong on cable TV.

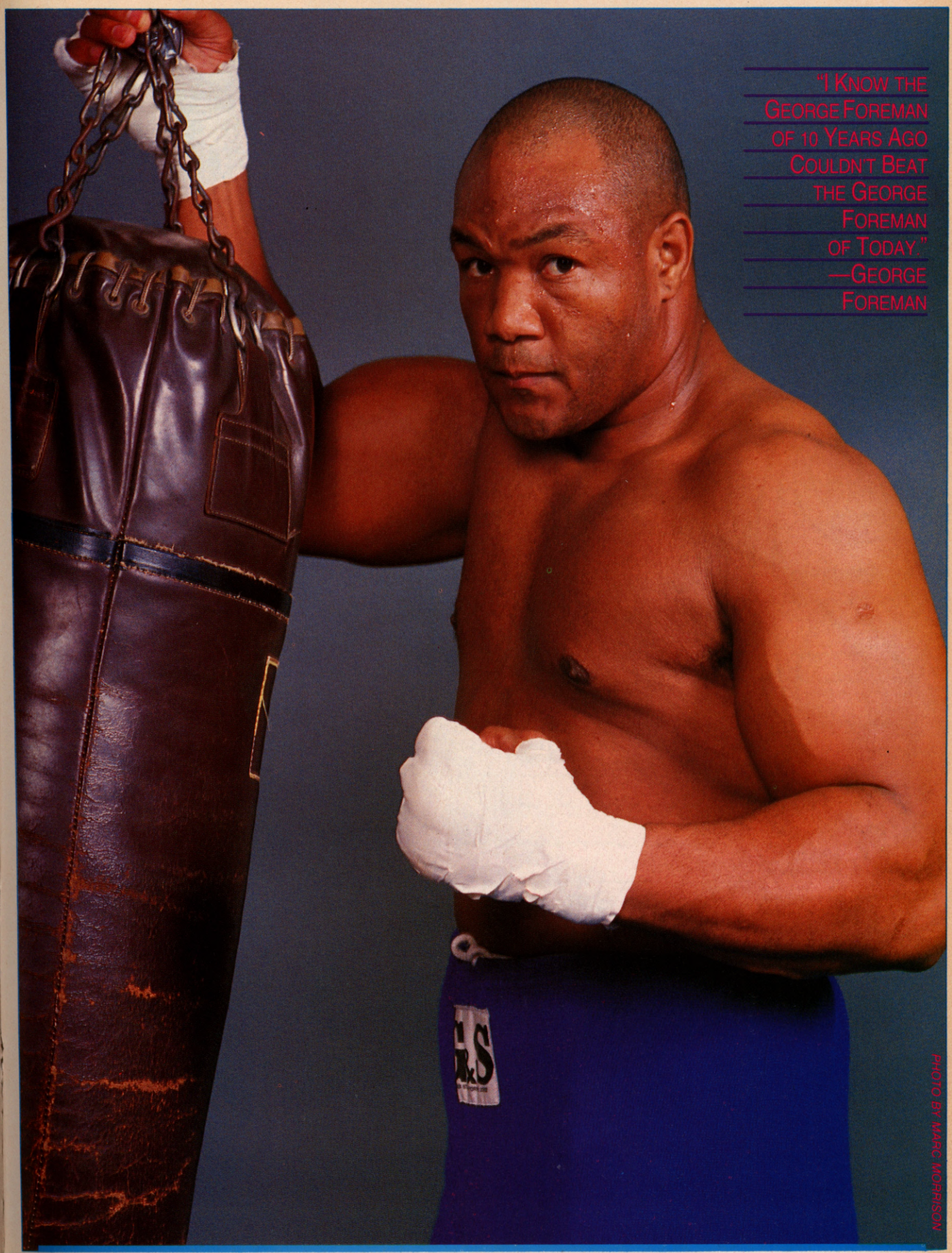
Arum, who is agreeable to detente with arch-rival Don King if it secures Foreman a shot at Tyson, sounded like a promoter with his first major fight as he continued lauding George's regeneration as a fist fighter.

"The public is keenly interested in the new Foreman. Now he exudes charisma. When George was champion, he was overshadowed by Ali whenever he wasn't fighting. Lots of fighters were overshadowed by Ali. Now Foreman comes across as witty, a gentle man with a pleasing personality. George talks very well ... he's a natural, and the key plus is there is still dynamite in either fist."

Whether or not the dynamite Arum speaks of is still powerful to take Foreman to a title shot remains a remote possibility at best. But what if the unlikely happens? What if one night Tyson and Foreman share the same ring with the combined Alphabet titles on the line?

"Mike Tyson is a fine fighter," said Foreman. "He has the heavyweight championship and I would like the opportunity to get into the ring with him. I feel I can beat Tyson. You have to admit that Tyson's mean. But if I get a chance to fight him, I'd make him run as soon as the bell rung. I'd have him going from side to side. You'll see another Sugar Ray Leonard out there ... and it will be Tyson. I wouldn't give him any bad angles. I'd make him run, literally on his bicycle."

Even if Foreman never gets that far, at least he doesn't have to worry about taking out the garbage anymore. □


"I KNOW THE GEORGE FOREMAN OF 10 YEARS AGO COULDN'T BEAT THE GEORGE FOREMAN OF TODAY."
—GEORGE FOREMAN
PHOTO BY MARC MORRISON

The RING RATINGS AS OF FEBRUARY 4, 1988

HEAVYWEIGHTS (No Weight Limit) WORLD CHAMPION

MICHAEL SPINKS	Missouri
1. Mike Tyson	New York
2. Evander Holyfield	Georgia
3. Tony Tucker	Michigan
4. Tim Witherspoon	Pennsylvania
5. Pinklon Thomas	Michigan
6. Carl Williams	New York
7. Trevor Berbick	Florida
8. Adilson Rodrigues	Brazil
9. Tyrell Biggs	Pennsylvania
10. Mike Weaver	California

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS (Not Over 175 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT

1. Charles Williams	Ohio
2. Virgil Hill	North Dakota
3. Bobby Czyz	New Jersey
4. Leslie Stewart	Trinidad
5. Dennis Andries	England
6. Tony Willis	Illinois
7. Don Lalonde	Canada
8. Chong-Pal Park	Korea
9. Lindell Holmes	Michigan
10. Ramzi Hassan	California

MIDDLEWEIGHTS (Not Over 160 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT

1. Thomas Hearns	Michigan
2. Marvin Hagler	Massachusetts
3. Frank Tate	Texas
4. Sumbu Kalambay	Italy
5. Mike McCallum	Jamaica
6. Michael Nunn	California
7. Michael Olajide	Canada
8. Iran Barkley	New York
9. Matthew Hilton	Canada
10. Herol Graham	England

WELTERWEIGHTS (Not Over 147 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

JORGE VACA	Mexico
1. Marlon Starling	Connecticut
2. Lloyd Honeyghan	England
3. Maurice Blocker	Washington, D.C.
4. Mark Breland	New York
5. Simon Brown	Washington, D.C.
6. Rollin Williams	Arizona
7. Juan Martin Coggi	Argentina
8. Tyrone Trice	Michigan
9. Roger Mayweather	Nevada
10. Frankie Warren	Texas

LIGHTWEIGHTS (Not Over 135 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT

1. Julio Cesar Chavez	Mexico
2. Vinny Pazienza	Rhode Island
3. Pernell Whitaker	Virginia
4. Jose Luis Ramirez	Mexico
5. Edwin Rosario	Puerto Rico
6. Meldrick Taylor	Pennsylvania
7. Greg Haugen	Washington
8. Primo Ramos	Mexico
9. Rocky Lockridge	New Jersey
10. Amancio Castro	Colombia

FEATHERWEIGHTS (Not Over 126 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA	Venezuela
1. Azumah Nelson	Ghana
2. Jeff Fenech	Australia
3. Calvin Grove	Pennsylvania
4. Julio Gervacio	Dominican Republic
5. Jeff Franklin	Nevada
6. Victor Callejas	Puerto Rico
7. Hector Lopez	California
8. Marcos Villasana	Mexico
9. Steve Cruz	Texas
10. Louie Espinoza	Arizona

BANTAMWEIGHTS (Not Over 118 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT

1. Miguel Lora	Colombia
2. Kaosai Galaxy	Thailand
3. Sugar Baby Rojas	Colombia
4. Kelvin Seabrooks	South Carolina
5. Raul Perez	Mexico
6. Wilfredo Vasquez	Puerto Rico
7. Santos Laciar	Argentina
8. Gilberto Roman	Mexico
9. Frankie Duarte	California
10. Gaby Canizales	Texas

FLYWEIGHTS (Not Over 112 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

SOT CHITALADA	Thailand
1. Jung-Koo Chang	Korea
2. Fidel Bassa	Colombia
3. Myung-Woo Yuh	Korea
4. Hilario Zapata	Panama
5. Chang-Ho Choi	Korea
6. Gabriel Bernal	*Mexico*
7. Dodie Penalosa	*Philippines*
8. Paul Gonzales	California
9. Benedicto Murillo	Panama
10. Duke McKenzie	England

The RING CALENDAR MAY 1988

Rocky Lockridge

1 SUNDAY
1914—John Henry Lewis born Los Angeles, California.

2 MONDAY
1958—Archie Moore W10 Willi Besmanoff, Louisville, Ky.

3 TUESDAY
1921—"Sugar" Ray Robinson (Walker Smith Jr.) born Detroit, Mich.

4 WEDNESDAY
1910—William "Gorilla" Jones born Memphis, Tenn.

5 THURSDAY
1973—Eder Jofre W15 Jose Legra (won world featherweight title).

6 FRIDAY
1915—Freddy "Red" Cochrane born Elizabeth, NJ.

7 SATURDAY
1938—Johnny Caldwell born Belfast, Ireland.

8 SUNDAY
1932—Sonny Liston born St. Francis County, Arkansas.

9 MONDAY
1970—Vincente Saldivar W15 Johnny Famechon, Rome, Italy (regained world featherweight title).

10 TUESDAY
1955—Tommy Burns died in Vancouver, Canada.

11 WEDNESDAY
1963—Mark Breland born Brooklyn, NY.

12 THURSDAY
1962—Harold Johnson W15 Doug Jones (won vacant world light heavyweight title).

13 FRIDAY
1914—Joe Louis (Joseph Louis Barrow) born Lafayette, Alabama.

14 SATURDAY
1983—Billy Petrolle died in Vero Beach, Florida.

15 SUNDAY
1871—"Mysterious" Billy Smith born Little River, Nova Scotia.

16 MONDAY
1967—Dick Tiger W15 Jose Torres (retained world light heavyweight title).

17 TUESDAY
1966—Randy Turpin died of gunshot wounds in Leamington, Warwickshire, England.

18 WEDNESDAY
1926—Joe "Old Bones" Brown born New Orleans, Louisiana.

19 THURSDAY
1985—Wilfredo Gomez W15 Rocky Lockridge (won WBA junior lightweight title in the year's most controversial decision).

20 FRIDAY
1971—Hiroyuki Murakami W10 Gabriel "Flash" Elorde (Elorde's last pro bout).

21 SATURDAY
1891—Peter Jackson D16 James J. Corbett (first time automatic timekeeper was used in a pro bout).

22 SUNDAY
1976—Roberto Duran KO14 Lou Bizzarro (regained world lightweight title).

23 MONDAY
1954—Marvelous Marvin Hagler born Newark, NJ.

24 TUESDAY
1901—Jim "Rube" Ferns KO10 Matty Matthews, Toronto (first world title fight in Canada).

25 WEDNESDAY
1826—Tom Sayers born Pimlico, England.

26 THURSDAY
1863—Bob Fitzsimmons born Helston, Cornwall, England.

27 FRIDAY
1975—Ezzard Charles died Chicago, Ill.

28 SATURDAY
1964—Jeff Fenech born Sydney, Australia.

29 SUNDAY
1913—Tony Zale (Anthony Florian Zaleski) born Gary, Indiana.

30 MONDAY
1951—Ezzard Charles W15 Joey Maxim (retained world heavyweight title).

31 TUESDAY
1893—Andy Bowens W85 Jack Everhardt (bout lasted 5 hours and 38 minutes).

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

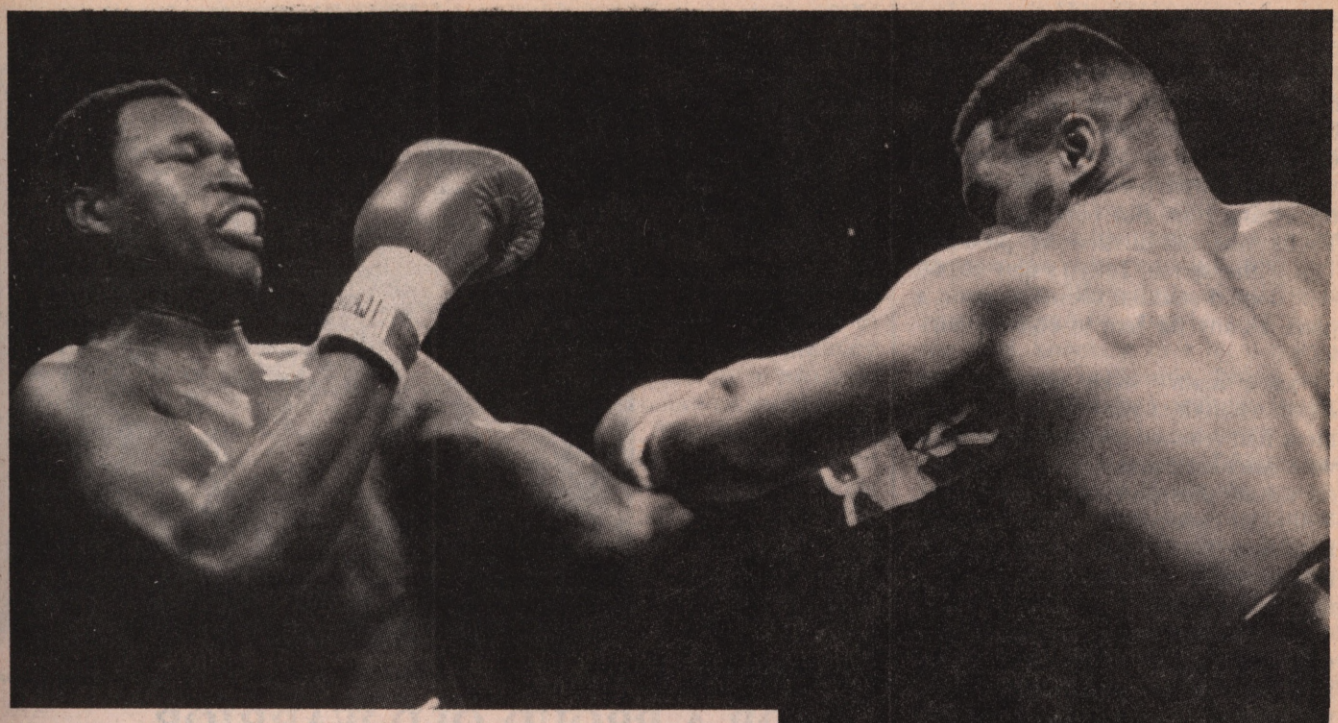
THE TYSON JUGGERNAUT ROLLS ON

Showdown With Spinks Set For June

by Nigel Collins

SOMETIMES LIFE IMITATES ART, BUT USUALLY IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND. Take for instance Nintendo System's hottest video computer game, "Mike Tyson Punchout." Unless you've been hunting yeti in the Himalayas for the past six months, you've probably seen the television commercial for this hugely successful product. The last scene of the ad, featuring "Iron Mike" seated in a room surrounded by a bank of high-tech TV monitors, is both clever and amusing: A voice informs prospective buyers that if they can defeat 11 top contenders, a shot at Mike Tyson will be their dubious reward. At which point Mike cuts loose with a blood-curdling cackle. Some reward!

Tyson's spectacular success inside the ring helped make the game the hit of the '87 Christmas season with kids of all ages. But we doubt his real-life opponents — past, present or future — will find much to laugh about when faced with the same proposition video game enthusiasts relish. Except for the monetary reward, fighting Mike Tyson is a little bit like cheating on your spouse. It may be fun for awhile, but once you get



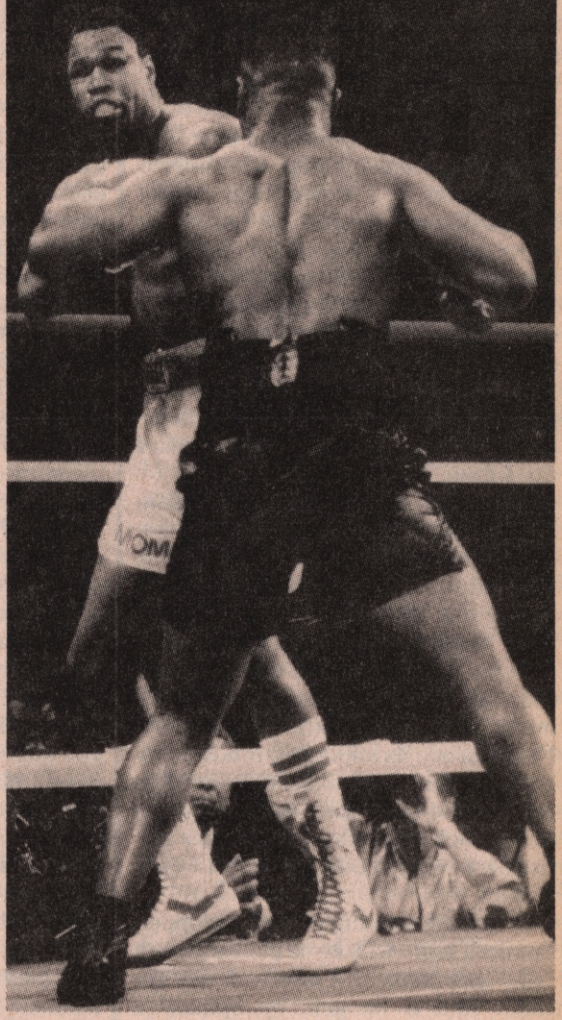
caught, you wish you'd stayed home, safely tucked in your own bed.

Even Larry Holmes had a brief flurry of fun during his January 22 bout with Tyson. After three rounds of extreme caution, Holmes opened the fourth dancing. The crowd responded with a roar and Larry dropped his arms and wiggled his shoulders. He even managed to pop in a couple of nice jabs. But the old champ's frolic was short-lived. Tyson soon connected with one of his right-handed blockbusters and Holmes' rally — and comeback — collapsed quicker than the Broncos did against the Redskins the following weekend in Super Bowl XXII.

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of Tyson's flourishing career is the high level of interest the paying public has shown in bouts where Tyson victories are practically a foregone conclusion. To the best of my knowledge, not a single sports writer gave Holmes a prayer. Yet, Atlantic City's Convention Hall was packed and the fight (?) drew a 34.0 cable rating and 48 percent share of audience for HBO's 16 million homes, the highest ever for a cable fight according to HBO producer Ross Greenberg.

Tyson's Tokyo tango with Tony Tubbs should be history by the time you read this, but even if the roly-poly former WBA heavyweight boss lasts longer than Holmes, he's sure to take a larruping in the long run. Tubbs was

Holmes reels backwards after sampling one of Tyson's potent left hooks. Though it was right hands which put Holmes down, left hooks such as this created the openings.



Mike Tyson has Larry Holmes on the ropes, hurt and ready to fall during the fatal fourth round of their heavyweight encounter in Atlantic City.

PHOTOS BY WILL HART

selected as Tyson's first overseas victim by the Japanese promoter in the hope he would stick around longer than Joe "King" Roman, who went bye-bye in the opening round against George Foreman in the last heavyweight title match held in The Land of the Rising Sun. But bearing in mind Tubbs was out-hustled by plodding Tim Witherspoon, Tokyo's new 60,000 seat domed stadium seems as good a place as any for him to commit harikari.

Tyson hadn't even departed for Japan when the news that his management had reached a verbal agreement with Michael Spinks' representatives for a June showdown was announced. While this reduced the already ho-hum bout with Tubbs to a mere tune-up, it brought joy to the hearts of boxing fans around the globe.

Negotiations between Spinks' Svengali, Butch Lewis, and Tyson's co-manager, Bill Cayton, had reached a logjam when Shelly Finkel stepped in as a liaison. Finkel, who manages a number of outstanding fighters himself, huddled with Lewis' lawyer, Milton Chwasky, and hammered out a deal acceptable to all parties.

At press time, no site had been set. Naturally, Donald Trump, who hosted Tyson-Holmes, Tyson-Biggs and Spinks-Cooney, wants to bring the super bout to his Atlantic City playpen. But we can expect spirited bidding from the Las Vegas Hilton, which sponsored the HBO heavyweight world series.

"We will be aggressive pursuers of that event. We're very interested in it," said Jack Burkham, vice president of the Hilton.

If, horror of horrors, the Tyson-Spinks match falls through for some unexpected reason, all we have to look forward to is Tyson feasting on a steady diet of underachievers. Before the breakthrough in negotiations materialized two weeks after Tyson's triumph over Holmes, his tentative menu called for brittle-chinned Brit Frank Bruno as appetizer, followed by a hearty entree of Italian Francesco Damiani (who has shown far more pasta than punch since turning pro after garnering a silver medal at the '84 Olympics).

Providing nothing comes a cropper, Spinks-Tyson will be a closed-circuit fight; not part of Tyson's series for HBO. And if he gets by Spinks (a reasonably big "if" at this stage of the game), it will be right back to the old schedule.

Just thinking about such mismatches is almost enough to make you lose your appetite. However, a lot of folks are apparently willing to digest more of the same hero-versus-target chowder HBO has been dishing up of late.

Muhammad Ali managed the same trick by using his charm and wit to elevate the status of a string of ordinary challengers. A magic word or two from Ali and even his bouts with such nonentities as Jurgen Blin, Rudi Lubbers, Jean Pierre Coopman and Richard Dunn became events. With Tyson it's a little bit more difficult to fathom. His demeanor is low key, he seldom praises or threatens his opponent, his press conferences are usually dull as dirt.

I suspect Mike is right when he says people come to see him fight because they love knockouts. Just like some people go to auto races hoping to see a spectacular smash-up, others attend boxing matches to see faces bleed and bodies fall. Tyson usually provides both. The question is, how long will the sight of Tyson bludgeoning no-hopers appease the public's blood lust?

Joe Louis' "Bum of the Month" campaign worked because he took it on the road, knocking over local heroes in their own backyards. Tyson, with Bruno and Damiani waiting in the wings, appears to be attempting the same. However, Louis and Ali always had a Billy Conn or Joe Frazier around to revive the spirit of competition. After Spinks, who does Tyson have?

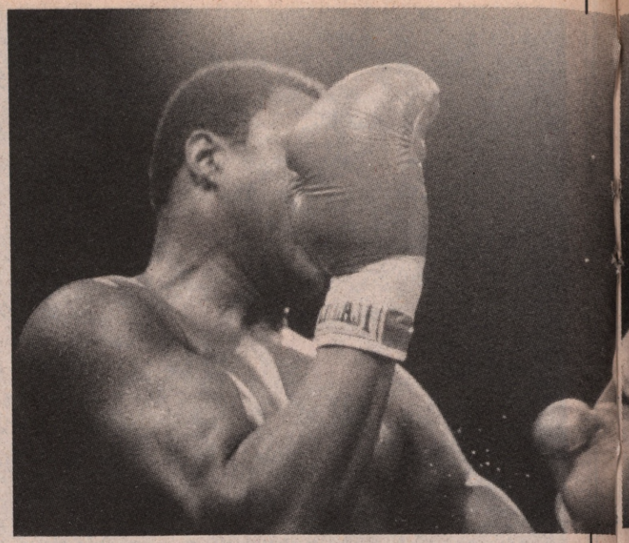
When Tyson poleaxed Trevor Berbick for the WBC portion of the heavyweight throne, *The Ring's* cover line asked, "Can Anybody Beat Him?" Sixteen months later, the same question has become as much rhetorical as quizzical.

Besides Spinks, the only fighter given even a remote chance against Tyson is Evander Holyfield. However, Holyfield's shrewd managerial team will play a waiting game. They will want to see how the "Real Deal" fares against some of the division's lesser lights before risking his hide against Tyson.

Tyson's demolition of Holmes was so brutally effective, some who'd been skeptical of Tyson in the past are now singing his praises.

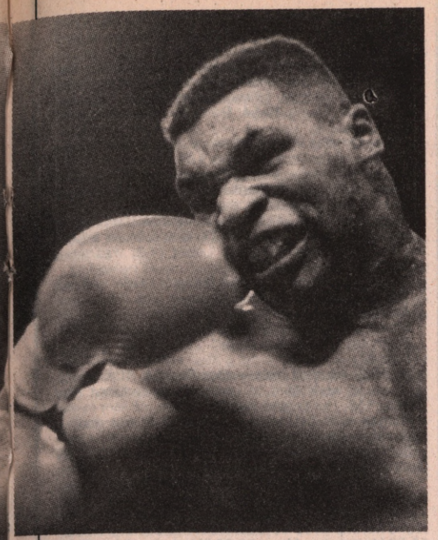
"Larry Holmes was a lot better than I figured he was going to be," said Gil Clancy in the aftermath of the Holmes' blowout. "I thought Larry fought a very smart fight for the first three rounds. I don't think Tyson knocked out a completely shot Larry Holmes. He's got that tremendous punch and he nailed Holmes. I think anybody he nails is gonna' go. I think he's run out of opponents. I think he's that good."

That's a scary thought for members of the heavyweight ranks and those among us who think of boxing as a contest rather than an execution. Of course, it's not Tyson's fault he's so good, and it's not his fault most of the other heavyweights are so vastly inferior. But it just might mean we'll all have to try our hand at "Mike Tyson Punchout" if we want a little give-and-take at the top of the heavyweight division. □



Tyson grimaces as he rips a right hook through Holmes' guard. The former champ tried his best to hold "Iron Mike" at bay, but just could stand up under the younger man's devastating attack.

PHOTO BY WILL HART



CLASSY EXIT FOR A PROUD OLD WARRIOR

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—IN THE END, LARRY Holmes went out like a champion . . . fighting.

When the curtain finally fell on Holmes' long and successful career, the "Easton Assassin" was flat on his back but still struggling to get up and face Mike Tyson once again. However, referee Joe Cortez knew better. At 2:55 of Round Four, following the third knockdown of the round, Cortez waved the fight over.

For the majority of the almost 17,000 fans in attendance, the finale was exactly what they'd come to see — another Tyson demolition job. But for those of us who remember Holmes in his glory days, it was a sad sight to behold. Holmes had never been the most lovable of champs, but he'd earned respect by beating the best, even if he sometimes had to come off the canvas to do so.

There was no bitter harangue this time like there was after his losses to Michael Spinks. Instead, Holmes was gracious in defeat, admitting Tyson caught him with a helluva shot. And as he reminded us, the $3 million he took back to Easton was a pretty nice payday for an old geezer with grandchildren.

Though he ultimately earned his purse by fielding a volley of punches designed to put his head in orbit, Holmes, 225¼, tried his best to stave off disaster. For the first three rounds, he shut down Tyson's awesome offense rather effectively, staying away when he could and clinching when he couldn't.

Tyson, 215¼, fought his normal fight, constantly coming forward, looking for an opportunity to land one of his pulverizing haymakers. He made Holmes pay for occasional misses with solid work to the body and generally bided his time while the former champion tried to prolong the inevitable.

Holmes' timing showed the effects of his 22-month layoff, but he did manage to land a pair of rights to the head early in the third.

"He hit me with a right hand off the top of the head," admitted Tyson, who upped his unbeaten log to 33-0 with 29 KOs. "But I take a pretty good punch, so it didn't really bother me."

But while Holmes kept out of trouble through the end of Round Three, his work was of a strictly negative nature. When he decided to start fighting, he sealed his own doom.

"In the third round he got excited and started popping the jab and being cute," said Tyson of Holmes' short-lived rally in the fatal fourth. "He got pumped up and the crowd went off. I knew he'd make that mistake. He let his ego get involved and I said, 'Now he's gonna' get it.' "

Another mistake Holmes made was one Tyson had seen in countless films and tapes.

"He's always kept his left hand low. Even when he was champion, he was vulnerable to a right hand. I saw an opening and I took advantage of it," said Tyson.

Tyson helped create the opening when he threw a left hook which knocked Holmes' left hand aside, momentarily leaving a gap in Larry's guard. A howitzer right flashed over the top and landed flush. Holmes went down on his back like he'd been dropped from the rafters, slamming onto the canvas with a resounding thud. Luckily for Holmes, he was clear-headed enough to keep his noggin from banging the floor.

Up at the count of four, Holmes shook his head and gamely tried to survive. But his equilibrium was gone and it wasn't long before Tyson bowled him over for a second knockdown.

Fighting on instinct, Holmes beat the count again and bravely tried to escape. He retreated on shaky legs, winging desperation punches whenever Tyson trapped him. It looked like Holmes might survive until the bell, but Tyson, a fine finisher, had other ideas.

"When he went down the first time, I knew it was over," reported Tyson. "I knew he wasn't going to finish the round."

Tyson was right. When Holmes failed to slide away along the ropes, the combined WBA/WBC/IBF heavyweight king delivered a final, withering salvo punctuated by a savage right which put Holmes down and out.

In a strange sidelight, Holmes was winding up to throw a mighty uppercut before Tyson applied the finisher. But Holmes got his right arm tangled in the ropes and was prevented from throwing a blow which may have allowed him to last the round. However, it may have been a blessing in disguise as further punishment was inevitable.

Tyson was much kinder after the bout than during it. He praised Holmes' courage and said he didn't think he could have beaten Larry during his prime. Of course, that's something we'll never know as Holmes was showing signs of decay even before Spinks ended his undefeated streak.

The loss left Holmes with a pro record of 48-3 with 34 KOs. All three defeats came at a stage in his career when he should probably have been enjoying life with his wife and family instead of trading blows with men of Tyson and Spinks' calibre. While he spent some of his time outside the ring with his foot in his mouth, inside the ropes Larry Holmes was a true champion.

Enjoy your retirement, champ. You've earned it. □

—Nigel Collins

RINGS AROUND THE WORLD

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

▶**LONG BEACH**—Spruce Goose Dome—Mike White, 287½, Long Beach, easily stopped much smaller Oscar Holman, 206, Los Angeles, in 1:29 of the fifth of a scheduled 10. Holman (12-12-1) turned his back in surrender after losing every round. Seven-footer White took his record to 19-7-1. Kent Davis, referee.

Katsumi Komiyama, 109, Los Angeles, repeated a previous victory over Rogelio Martinez, 110, Los Angeles, eight. Komiyama (10-2-3) won every round but the first. Scoring: Davis 79-73; Gwen Adair 78-74; Robert Byrd 79-73. Pat Connolly, referee.

Martin Nunez, 149, Lynwood, kayoed Howard Scott, 145, Inglewood, who was counted out by referee Adair in 1:45 of the fourth and final round.

Daryl Colquitt, 148, Los Angeles, unanimously outpointed Otis Rodgers, four. Poor Rodgers, winless in 10 starts, was down twice. Byrd, referee.

Physicians: Michael Deluca & Vaughn Nixon.
Timekeeper: Phil Carreon.
Announcer: Danny Valdivia.
Matchmaker: John Cabrera.
Promoter: Don Fraser.
(11-18-87)

▶**SAN DIEGO**—El Cortez Hotel—**James Kinchen,** 168, unanimously outpointed Milford Kemp, 166½, Venice, 10. Kinchen (39-4-2, 29) struggled (*The Ring* carded a draw), his punches lacking authority, but strong and awkward Kemp (11-4-3) can make any fighter look bad.

Scoring: Hal Rickards 99-96; Frank Rustich 97-94; Fritz Werner 100-91. Chuck Hassett, referee.

Tony Deluca, 108, San Diego, unanimously outpointed Jose Manuel Diaz, 109, Mexicali, 10, not losing a round. Deluca (12-1-2) is the only American in the light flyweight World Ratings (#3 WBA, #13 WBC). Pat Russell, referee.

Southpaws Irving Mitchell, 123, San Diego, and Victor Paredes, 124¾, Los Angeles, fought to a technical draw in 0:31 of the sixth of a scheduled 10. A head clash left Mitchell (31-5-1) badly dazed and Paredes (12-5-1) cut over the right eye. Mitchell was ahead on all three cards. Scoring: Hassett 49-46; Werner 49-47; Russell 50-46. Rustich, referee.

Tosand Jewell, 158½, Los Angeles, unanimously shut out Eric McNair, 156¾, San Diego, six. Werner, referee.

Impressive newcomer Hugo Orozco, 128, San Diego, unanimously outscored Juan Torres, 131, San Diego, four. Scoring: Rustich 39-37; Rickards 40-37; Russell 39-37. Werner, referee.

Physician: William Lundeen.
Timekeeper: Mike Millsap.
Announcer: Ernie Swanks.
Matchmaker: Guillermo Mayen.
Promoter: Lilian DePhilippis.
(11-19-87)

▶**INGLEWOOD**—The Forum—NABF light heavyweight champion **Tony Willis,** 174, Houston, knocked out California and Forum titleholder **Ramzi Hassan,** 175, Campo, in 0:32 of the 12th and final round to win the vacant USBA championship. Willis (14-0) was behind on all three scorecards after 11 rounds, despite flooring Hassan twice. But Hassan (25-3) never recovered from a late 11th-round right-hand knockdown, and when Hassan went down from a left hand in the 12th, referee Larry Rozadilla stopped the fight.

Dio Colome, 146½, Los Angeles, unanimously outpointed Young Dick Tiger, 145½, Hollywood, in an excellent 10-round Forum Welterweight Tournament quarterfinal, Tiger (21-2) elected to trade with slugger Colome (21-4) and clearly came out second best. The Nigerian was down in the fifth. Scoring: Dr. James Jen-Kin 97-92; Raul Caiz 98-94; Lou Filipo 99-90. Lou Moret, referee.

Willie Wilson, 161, Campo, returned to the win column when he stopped Douglas Laws, 158, Los Angeles, at the end of the first of a scheduled six. Wilson (12-2-1) was all over Laws (3-3), but the intervention of ringside physician Dr. Bernhart Schwartz still seemed premature. Moret, referee.

Rico Velasquez, 132, San Gabriel, outpointed veteran Jusan Paredes, 131½, Los Angeles, winning unanimously, eight. Paredes (32-9-1) was penalized for a low blow in the fifth. Velasquez has a 15-4 record, with five good wins in a row. Scoring: Kenny Davis 78-73; Caiz 77-75; Jen-Kin 78-73. Vince Delgado, referee.

Gerardo Velasquez, 132, San Gabriel, floored and stopped Arnulfof Luna, 135, Bakersfield, in 1:37 of the second of a scheduled four. Gerardo (14-2) may be more talented than older brother Rico. Delgado, referee.

Abe Gomez, 125, Arleta, scored his best pro win by stopping tough Daniel Garcia, 125, Los Angeles, in 2:32 of the sixth and final round. Gomez (8-0) lost a point for low blows but was clearly ahead on points. Filippo, referee.

Debuting Trevor Goddard, 170, Los Angeles, unanimously outpointed Walter Stark, 170, Bakersfield, four. Filippo, referee.

Physicians: Michael Deluca & Bernhart Schwartz.
Timekeeper: Ernie Snow.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
Matchmaker: Tony Curtis.
Promoter: Jerry Buss.
(11-24-87)

▶**RESEDA**—The Country Club—California middleweight champion Tim Williams, 159½, San Diego, retained his title for the first time when he came from behind to win a bloody 12-round split decision over 19-year-old challenger Roberto Rosiles, 159¾, Blythe.

Rosiles (10-3-1) bled heavily from the nose from the first round and he was cut by the left eye in the fifth. But Rosiles fought surprisingly well, beating Williams (14-3-1) to the punch in the early rounds and forcing the defending champion to take a count in the eighth.

Scoring: Eddie Rodriguez 115-114, Rosiles; Dick Young 115-112, Williams; Chuck Hassett 116-112, Williams. Gwen Adair, referee.

Eighteen-fight veteran Ruben Proa, 137¾, San Diego, squared his record with a unanimous verdict over Derrick Hudson, 139¼, Bakersfield, six. Scoring: Adair 58-56; Young 60-54; Rodriguez 59-56. Hassett, referee.

Oscar Ornelas, 135, Commerce, was judged to be a split winner over Daniel Garcia, 138, Oxnard, five. *The Ring* favored Garcia (8-4-1). Ornelas improved to 4-4-3. Scoring: Adair 49-46 Garcia; Young 48-47 Ornelas; Hassett 48-47 Ornelas. Rodriguez, referee.

Ralph Gutierrez, 123½, Los Angeles, surprisingly bombed out Robert Lopez, 123, Glendale, in 2:52 of the first of a scheduled five. Lopez (4-2) was down twice. Hassett, referee.

Physicians: Robert Karns & Vaughn Nixon.
Timekeeper: John Liechty.
Announcer: Michael Buffer.
Matchmaker: Larry Goossen.
Promoter: Daniel Goossen.
(11-24-87)

▶**IRVINE**—Marriott Hotel—**Alex Ramos,** 154, Downey, had to work hard to unanimously outpoint Rod Starks, 155, Huntington Beach, 10.

Ramos is 28-7-2, while Starks (10-8-3) was making his main event debut.

Scoring: Gwen Adair 96-93; Pat Connolly 98-92; Tony Guitron 96-93. Lou Moret, referee.

Louis Hernandez, 129½, Redlands, proved too experienced for previously unbeaten Juan Marchena, 129½, Westminster. Hernandez' excellent split six-round win improved his record to 9-7-5. Scoring: Guitron 58-56 Hernandez; Moret 58-57 Marchena; Adair 58-56 Hernandez. Connolly, referee.

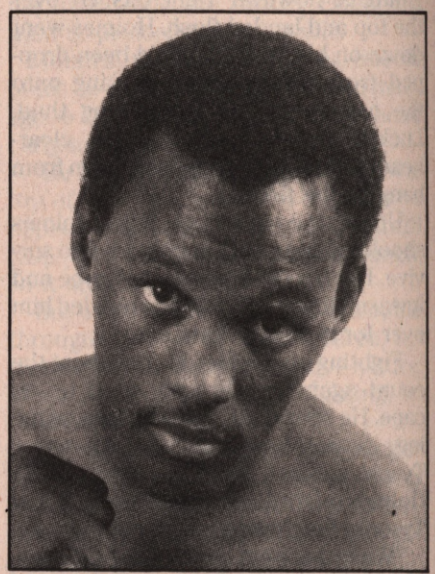
Jaime Ocegueda, 139, Commerce, made it three straight wins when he stopped Walter Snell, 138, San Diego, referee Adair intervening to save winless Snell from further punishment in 1:16 of the fourth and final round.

Flashy Ralph Gutierrez, 122, once again gave the fans a show, but determined Juvenal Molina, 123, East Los Angeles, did enough to earn a six-round draw. The 8-14-6 record of Gutierrez belies his skill.

Scoring: Moret 60-54 Gutierrez; Adair 58-56 Molina; Connolly 57-57. Guitron, referee.

Mando Martinez, 191, Los Angeles, stopped Frank Charles, 183, Pasadena, in 0:45 of the second of a scheduled comical four-round show closer. Guitron, referee.

Physicians: Michael Deluca & Mario Ficarola.
Timekeeper: Phil Carreon.
Announcer: Danny Valdivia.
Matchmaker: John Cabrera.
Promoter: Don Fraser.
(12-3-87)



Former welterweight champion Donald Curry made his first start since losing to Mike McCallum a successful one by stopping Rigo Lopez inside of four rounds in Reseda.

▶**RESEDA**—The Country Club—Former world welterweight champion **Donald Curry,** 155, Fort Worth, floored Rigo Lopez, 155, El Cajon, twice with hooks to the body, finishing Lopez in 1:54 of the fourth of a scheduled 10. Curry (28-2) won every round, but appeared tentative before opening up in the fourth. Lopez fell to 19-6. John Thomas, referee.

Daryl Colquitt, 145, Los Angeles, unanimously outpointed slow-starter David Guerra, 147, San Diego, five, but it was a dull fight. Colquitt (6-5-2) had Guerra (8-16) down briefly in the first. Scoring: Dick Young 50-44; Thomas 50-44; Lou Moret 49-46. Rudy Jordan, referee.

Juan Hernandez, 129, Los Angeles, unanimously outscored Joe Esquievel, 132, Pacoima, over four excellent rounds, all three officials scoring 39-36. Moret, referee.

Unbeaten Hugo Orozco, 130½, San Diego, scored his third win as a professional when he won a disputed four-round split decision over Philip Ortiz, 132, Los Angeles. Scoring: Young 39-37 Orozco; Jordan 39-38 Ortiz; Thomas 39-38 Orozco. Moret, referee.

Javier Macias, 125, Pacoima, flattened Dino Garza, 127, Granada Hills, with a left in 2:16 of the second of a scheduled four. It was a revenge win for Macias (5-3) who had been kayoed by club favorite Garza (5-2) seven months earlier. Moret, referee.

Tony Olivas, 127¼, Pasadena, scored two knockdowns while stopping Juan Torres, 133, San Diego, in 2:30 of the second of a scheduled four. Jordan, referee.

Physician: Vaughn Nixon.
Timekeeper: John Liechty.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
Matchmaker: Larry Goossen.
kPromoter: Daniel Goossen.
(12-8-87)

▶**LONG BEACH**—Spruce Goose Dome—Former WBC super bantamweight champion **Jaime Garza,** 124½, impressively knocked out James Manning, 122½, Eugene, with a right to the chin in 0:49 of the sixth of a scheduled 10. Garza (47-3) also floored Manning (28-10) in the opening seconds of the first round and just before the bell ending the fourth round. Robert Byrd, referee.

Unbeaten Ernie Nava, 144½, Hawaiian Gardens, unanimously shut out African veteran Felix Akpan, 145, Hollywood, five. Colorful Nava (7-0-1) has been sporadically active in his three-year pro career. Dr. James Jen-Kin, referee.

Alberto Tellez, 124½, East Los Angeles, won a majority decision over Mike Rodriguez, 124½, East Los Angeles, four. Scoring: Byrd 38-38; Larry Rozadilla 40-36; Jen-Kin 39-38. Vince Delgado, referee.

Kengo Fukuda, 125, Tokyo, was awarded a hard-fought five-round majority verdict over Fernando Garcia, 127¾, East Los Angeles. Fukuda (11-1) won despite losing a point for a low blow in the second. Scoring: Byrd 47-47; Jordan 49-45; Delgado 48-47. Rozadilla, referee.

Kazuma Saidi, 121, Tokyo, unanimously outscored Oscar Garza, 122, Vancouver, four. Saiki (3-2) was floored in the first. Garza (2-1) was down in the second and the third. Scoring: Delgado 37-36; Jen-Kin 38-36; Byrd 37-36.

Physician: Dr. Michael Deluca.
Timekeeper: Phil Cardeon.
Announcer: Danny Valdivia.
Matchmaker: John Cabrera.
Promoter: Don Fraser.
(12-9-87)

▶**INGLEWOOD**—The Forum—**Vernon "Yogi" Buchanan,** 135, Berkley, Missouri, made a successful first defense of his Forum lightweight title with an impressive knockout of Rico Velasquez, 134, San Gabriel, in 2:21 of the third of a scheduled 12. The inexperienced Velasquez (15-5) touched down in the first 30 seconds of the third, and found himself on the floor again 20 seconds later. Buchanan (18-5-1) increased the pressure and Velasquez did not protest when referee Lou Moret waved it over.

Determination carried popular Vicente Gonzalez, 130, Bell, to a majority decision over better boxer Kenny Wyatt, 130, Los Angeles, 10. Gonzalez' (10-3-2) extra effort in the middle rounds gave him a slight edge, but Wyatt (8-3-1) nearly turned it around in the final two rounds. Scoring: Dick Young 95-95; Moret 97-94; Dr. James Jen-Kin 98-93. Lou Filippo, referee.

Terry Davis, 219, Van Nuys, won an eight-round unanimous decision over Gary Lightbourne, 214, Las Vegas, in an excellent heavyweight match. Davis (11-0-1) kept up a blistering pace throughout, but was cut in the first and Lightbourne (12-5) had Davis hurt in nearly every round. Scoring: Vince Delgado 78-74; Young 78-74; Larry Rozadilla 78-75. Jen-Kin, referee.

Carlos Vargas, 130, Lynwood, flattened James Alger, 129, Ontario, with a left hook in 2:04 of the fourth and final round. Alger (5-3) had dominated. It was Vargas' third knockout victory in four starts. Raul Caiz, referee.

Oscar Ornelas, 132, Commerce, scored a close win over Philip Ortiz, 135, Los Angeles, four. The scoring was predictably split (Moret 39-37 Ortiz; Filippo and Rozadilla 39-37 Ornelas). Caiz, referee.

Les Fabri, 123½, Las Vegas, won every round in a four against debuting Mark Jenkins, 122, San Diego. Delgado, referee.

Levi Billups, 219, San Diego, stopped outclassed Roger Troupe, 211, Long Beach, who quit in his corner at the end of the third of a scheduled six. Billups scored a third-round knockdown. Rozadilla, referee.

Physicians: Bernhart Schwartz & Michael Deluca.
Timekeepers: Danny Millsap & John Liechty.
Announcer: Jimmy Lennon Jr.
Matchmaker: Antonio Curtis.
Promoter: Jerry Buss.
(12-17-87)

DEAN LOHUIS

COLORADO

▶**DENVER**—Colorado Indoor Arena—Edgar Garcia, 128, Albuquerque, scored a surprise TKO over local favorite Tony Duran at 2:56 of the third round in a scheduled eight.

Duran was boss in the opening frame and was having his way in the second when a jolting right dropped him to his knees. Duran shook it off and finished the round seemingly back in control.

Round Three began with Duran hooking and mauling when Garcia again banged a right flush against the jaw of the 127-pound Denverite, wobbling Duran, then effectively punched through the stricken fighter's desperate retaliation. As Duran's hands fell referee Novar Garcia (no relation) chose to administer a standing eight. But Duran was too far gone to benefit from the respite and when the action resumed Garcia quickly dealt several crushing blows to Duran's head, causing referee Garcia to correctly halt the proceedings. Edgar Garcia is 6-2; Duran falls to 9-2.

Benjie Vigil earned a workmanlike victory over tough Chino Sanchez, 134, Albuquerque, in an earnest eight. Vigil, himself 134 and fighting out of Denver, controlled the action throughout, though Sanchez fared better than the scoring indicates. Vigil is 9-0; Sanchez is 4-2. Scoring, 79-72, 80-72, 80-69.

Popular Anthony Huggins, 168, Virgin Islands, won his rematch with Irish Dave Turner, 170, Denver, in a sluggish six. Huggins, who won the first encounter as well, is 7-1-1.

Anthony Barela, 122, Denver, fought inside the looping punches of Denver's little strongman, Vinnel Ponzio, to gain a clear, but hard-earned win over four, 39-37, 39-37, 39-38.

Gabe Ramirez, 240, Denver, connected with a barroom roundhouse against Oscar Jamal, 230, Denver, felling Jamal like a plank at 1:28 in the first of a scheduled four.

David Sanchez, 127, Leadville, applied a furious pasting to Rick Chavez, 132, Denver, resulting in a stoppage at 2:50 of Round One in a scheduled four.

Promoter: BBC Hurtado.
Referees: Novar Garcia & Paul Barcelona.
Announcer: David Gargana.
Attendance: 500 (est.).

▶**NOTES:** Immediately following the referee's signal to halt the Garcia-Duran main event, one of the local fans, apparently unable to accept that Duran had been stopped, dove through the ropes and body slammed the victorious Garcia to the canvas. This precipitated a mass of about two dozen defenders, friends, drunks and odd souls to whom chaos represents a good time, to pour into the ring and square off against the first familiar face. Few blows landed and there were no knockdowns, and anyone involved in this melee harboring an inkling toward the art of pugilism would be well advised to keep close tabs on upcoming civil service examinations.
(1-9-88)

ED WALSH

CONNECTICUT

▶**NEW HAVEN**—Veterans Memorial Coliseum—Make a mental note of a sharpshooting bantamweight named **Luigi Dino Computaro,** whose crowd-pleasing skills earned him a close, 10-round decision over Kenny Mitchell of New York City.

In outpointing Mitchell in an action-crammed duel, Computaro passed his first test against a much more experienced foe. The star-spangled son of Italy has been just short of sensational in racking up a string of victories in America, and the striped colors of his adopted land combined with those of Italy in adorning his robe and trunks as he stepped into the ring. Even more impressive were the power punches stemming from his 116-pound frame as he let go with two-fisted assaults.

Now living in Southington, Connecticut, Computaro got the nod over a six-year pro who has fought coast to coast. He has the potential of developing into a top bantam down the line. At this stage, his main weakness is that he gets hit more than he should because he's so eager to get at his foe.

Veteran Miami Beach promoter Chris Dundee acted as matchmaker for the show, which included a winner—**Uriah Grant**—from Florida in the slated 10-round cofeature. Grant, 176, Miami, stopped Louis Coleman, 172, New Orleans, in the first round compliments of the three-knockdown rule.

Alex Stewart, 220, Brooklyn, halted an overmatched and out of shape Juan Quintana, 221, Springfield, Massachusetts, in the second of a scheduled eight.

Carmelo Hernandez, 130, Holyoke, Massachusetts, stopped Edwin Sepulveda, 128, Springfield, Massachusetts, in the second round.

Officials: Matt Mullaney, Sam Maltempo, John Lawson & Bob Muravnick.
Physician: Steven M. Stein.
Promoters: Dynamite Productions/Ron Souza.
Attendance: 1,200.
Gate: $16,317 (gross).
(11-28-87)

JOSEPH CASSANO

FLORIDA

▶**HIALEAH**—Sheraton of the Americas—Mauricio Rodriguez, Continental American junior welterweight champion, continued his winning streak with a unanimous 10-round decision over stand-up fighter Danny Vargas of Mexico.

Vargas, a switch-hitter, unsuccessfully tried to confuse Rodriguez by changing hands in each round, but the counterpunching of the champion left Vargas with a left eye that swelled in the fifth. By the time the 10th rolled around, Vargas was so frustrated he resorted to butting and clinching.

Both were in excellent condition, but Rodriguez, who improved his record to 30-2, won easily after the first two frames.

Miami light heavyweight Leroy Hester wore down Colombian Manuel Murrillo with repeated left hooks until the fight was stopped at 2:55 of the second round after Murrillo had been down twice. Hester, an opponent of late, upped his mark to 14-7, while Murrillo, being tutored by Chris Dundee, fell to 14-5.

Ali Sanchez, the highly touted Cuban who spent some time in prison, with nine knockouts in nine fights behind bars, continued his professional career as a middleweight by stopping Albert Rodriguez (0-1) of Florida City. Rodriguez threw nothing but overhand rights, hurting Sanchez with some of the bombs. But the professionalism of the 3-0 Sanchez prevailed, and the doctor stopped the scheduled four after the third.

Robert "Little Joe" Daniels, Miami, scored the 12th knockout in his 12-1 record when handed another duck in 285-pound Larry Gadsden, also of Miami. A solid left to the big midsection of Gadsden put him down and out for the count at 1:22 of the first round. Gadsden last fought in 1985 with similar results. It seems no one wants to fight Daniels, who has looked great at times but really has had no competition.

Former middleweight and light heavyweight Dario Deasa, 19-8, of the Dominican Republic, came out of retirement as a heavyweight to stop Gary Peters of Miami. Scheduled for six, the bout ended in the fifth. Peters was cut above the right eye in the second, but trainer Chuck Talhami did a nice job of closing the wound. However, Peters' conditioning and a bloodied mouth forced the referee to stop the match at the end of five. In his day, Deasa met James "Hard Rock" Green, Tony Ayala and even Mark Kaylor.

In a scheduled four-round opener Hialeah's Tony Frontela, a Cuban with a decent amateur record, took the measure of William Santos of Florida City at 2:58 of the first. Both featherweights were making their pro debuts.

Promoter: Arena Promotions.

Matchmaker: Louis De Cubas.
Attendance: 1,400 (est.).
Referees: Eddie Eckert, Bernie Sota & Billy Yoham.
Judges: Al Wilensky, Henry Berman, Mark Conn & Irv Abramson.
(1-15-88)

▶**NOTES:** The world featherweight championship between **Antonio Esparragoza** and Valerio Nati was canceled just two days prior to the bout, which was scheduled for Hollywood, which is located between Miami and Fort Lauderdale. Jimmy Resnick, newly appointed state chairman of the Florida Athletic Commission and the WBA's Alberto Aleman of Panama apparently couldn't agree on officials, and promoter Mel Webman and his matchmaker Rocky Golio were forced to back out. Meanwhile, both Esparragoza and Nati were left in the lurch with promises from the promoter to move the bout to either Atlantic City or New York.

ALLAN TOOR

KANSAS

▶**WICHITA**—Wichita Indian Center—Dwayne Swift, 141, Oklahoma City, once again startled an SRO crowd by displaying sharp, punishing power at the expense of hapless Fudail Rezzaq, 144, Tulsa, Oklahoma, scoring a knockout in the third round.

Swift, 15-0 with 13 KOs, provided ample justification for the dodging tactics of some of the more noteworthy members of the boxing elite such as Harry Arroyo, Buddy McGirt and Primo Ramos, executing his smooth blend of boxing skill and knockout power in each hand in a most brutal manner.

Clearly, Rezzaq, a reported 10-4-1 with two KOs, is not the menace that may wait ahead for Swift as his feeble punching power made him a virtual heavy bag from the opening bell. Just as clearly, however, it seems Swift must continue to go in against such opposition until one of today's ranked fighters wants to take a chance on a young man who is fast becoming the best unknown fighter in boxing.

On the undercard, Eddie Blackwell, 201, Hays, won a four-round decision over Wichita's Jim Cody, 219.

Steve Langley, 163, Wichita, knocked out Greg Ottaway, 160, Stillwater, Oklahoma, in two.

Greg Gorrell, 200, Wichita, knocked out Charles Jamison, 201, Tulsa, in the first.

Mike Hallacy, 170, Wichita, knocked out Asim Rezzaq, Tulsa, in the fourth.

Ron Malek, 160, Wichita, knocked out Keheaven Johnson, 159, Oklahoma City, in the fifth.

Promoters: Gorilla Productions/Tommy Armstrong.
(1-12-88)

JAMES E. HUTTON

KENTUCKY

▶**LEXINGTON**—Continental Inn—Popular Louisville heavyweight **James "Pritch" Pritchard,** 205, on the comeback trail under the tutelage of **Jimmy Ellis** after his nationally televised TKO at the hands of Mike Weaver, KO'd last-minute replacement Bruce Johnson, 205, Pittsburgh, at 2:09 of the fifth round in their scheduled eight-round main event.

Displaying the "new" James Pritchard, a more patient and defense oriented version of the old, undisciplined brawler, local favorite Pritchard was — such is life! — booed for inactivity in the first round.

The action remained slow through the second stanza with the most action coming after the bell as both men continued to punch.

The third and fourth rounds saw Pritchard do good work to the body of his lanky opponent, and it was apparent as the fifth canto began that game Johnson was tired. Then Pritchard landed a hard left hook to the temple and his man went down. He got up and did a good job avoiding Pritchard, who displayed the discipline Ellis has been trying to teach him by methodically stalking Johnson.

Then the blow that had to come came, a crunching right cross which left Johnson stretched on his back, blood bubbling from his mouth.

The brave Johnson's record falls to 9-5-1; Pritchard's rises to 16-1-1. James Dixon refereed.

In a bout billed as the eight-round co-main event, popular local heavyweight Shawn Evans, 192, Lexington, TKO'd out-of-shape opponent Lamont Jackson, 193, at 1:39 of the second round.

Jackson was billed as hailing from Miami, but could have come from anywhere, though he did enter the ring in tennis shoes and swimming trunks. Similarly, his announced 2-2 record is to be questioned. Even so he did land several wild, looping punches to Evans' head in the first two minutes of the first round. Then Evans, who entered the bout with a 9-0 record (all via the KO route) landed a right and Jackson went down. He survived the round, but all the fight had been taken out of him.

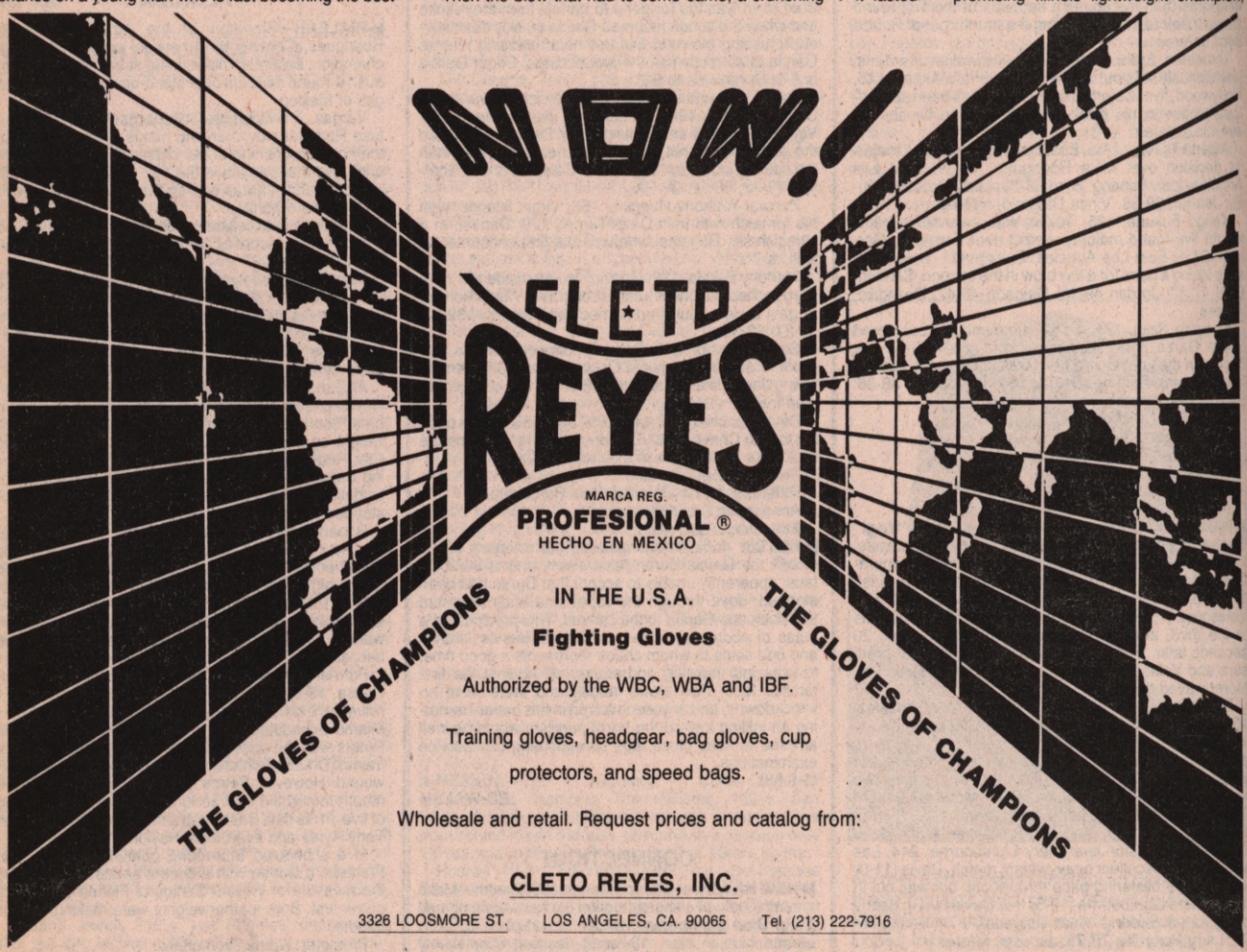
In the second round, Jackson fell down at the least opportunity and referee Terry O'Brien was forced to invoke the three-knockdown rule.

Evans, who is a senior at nearby Eastern Kentucky University and a TKE fraternity member, upped his skein to 10-0 — but against what quality of opposition? An intelligent and personable young man, Evans realizes he has yet to be tested.

In other action, Jerry Brown, 154, Lexington, improved his record to 8-0 by KO'ing now 10-5 Wadell Langston, 155, Youngstown, at 1:20 of the fourth round. Brown was aggressive from the start and followed his rope-hugging southpaw opponent around the ring. He finally wore his man down and dropped him. Langston cound have got up, but chose not to. O'Brien refereed the scheduled six-round bout.

In a hard-fought four-round lightweight bout, Brian "Choirboy" Brown, 134, Lexington, punched out a clean-cut unanimous decision over James Williams, 130, Nashville. Brown upped his record to 9-1-1 and Williams' fell to 7-3. O'Brien refereed.

In the best contest of the evening — for as long as it lasted — promising Illinois lightweight champion,



Louie Lomeli, 135, Melrose Park, Ill., KO'd "Rocky" Ray James, 139, Youngstown. James came to fight in the eight-round scheduled bout, but was clearly outclassed by Lomeli, who knocked his man down with a hard combination as James chose to make a fight of it. James managed to struggle to his feet only to be finished off by a tremendous right uppercut. Keep your eye on Lomeli; he may soon be a force to be reckoned with in the lightweight division. James Dixon refereed.

Announcer: Dave Crusenklaus.
Timekeeper: Chuck Sayer.
Physician: James Ross.
Matchmaker: G.L. Van Horn.
Judges: Sam Floyd, Roy Kempf & Larry Mullins.
Promoter: BlueGrass Pro Boxing.
Attendance: 850 (est.).
(1-5-88)

JOEL ROITMAN

▶**LOUISVILLE**—Louisville Gardens—Clarksville, Indiana's Tyrone Moore turned in a fine showing, stopping Cincinnati's Ricardo Simpson in the third round of a scheduled 10-round main event.

Moore weighed 150, Simpson, 154.

Louisville's Arthur Weathers, 185, stopped Bowling Green's Michael Wilson, 185, in the final round of an action six.

Another fine six saw Louisville's Terrance Collier, 165, win by unanimous decision over Robert Neeley, 163, St. Louis, Missouri.

Three scheduled four-rounders completed the show.

Muncie, Indiana's Jerry Bilyeau, 141, won by unanimous decision over Louisville's Jame Ruff, 141, the cards reading 39-38 and 39-37 (twice).

Norman Bates, 136, Indianapolis, knocked down Louisville's Michael Johns, 131, three times for a TKO 30 seconds into the fourth round.

Tim Tomashek, 194, Indianapolis, took a split decision from Louisville's Gary Steiger, 187.

Promoter: TKO Sports Promotions.
Referees: O'Brien & Dixon.
Judges: Kerns, O'Brien & Kempf.
Timekeepers: Peyton.
Physician: Greathouse.
Announcer: Barry.
(1-15-88)

LOUISIANA

▶**NEW ORLEANS**—Superdome—Lightweight **John "Super D" Duplessis** ran his record to 26-0 with a unanimous 10-round decision win over Mexico City's Sergio Aguirre.

Duplessis won every round on all three scorecards as Aguirre, a late substitute for Roque Montoya, fell to a reported 26-7.

A group of New Orleans Saints plus trumpeteer Al Hirt escorted Duplessis into the ring. Lucky for Duplessis, he fared better with Aguirre than the Saints did with the Minnesota Vikings in the first round of the NFL playoffs. Though the Mexican kept trying, Duplessis was just too fast.

"He takes a real good punch," Duplessis said of Aguirre as he talked to Mario Cruz of *The Times-Picayune*. "I hit him with everything, but he was in there to survive. He was trying to lure me in. That's why he was laying back. But he didn't know how to do it. He was just trying to land the one big punch."

On the undercard, light heavyweight Joe McKnight of Kenner improved to 16-4 when Leon Morris of Covington was unable to answer the bell for Round Six of a scheduled eight.

Featherweight Giovanni Voccarella of St. Bernard won a six-round decision over Herbie Bivalacqua of Marrero.
(12-16-87)

MARYLAND

▶**BALTIMORE**—Baltimore Arena—Going 10 for the first time in his career, 22-year-old Vincent Pettway, 147, Baltimore, took an efficiently lopsided, but uninspiring unanimous decision over former contender Horace Shufford, 147, Las Vegas. The scores were: Harry Cecchini, 100-90, and Milton Greene and Ray Klingmeyer both at 100-91. The referee was Frank Kelly.

Shufford, who hasn't been too active of late, abandoned his usual stick/move style. This was do partly to a rusty timing factor and the appearance of knee support bandage on his left leg. Since Horace was right there, Vincent didn't have to do much in the way of footwork. While firing fairly accurate combinations, Pettway was hardly breaking a sweat or breaking Shufford in two.

"He's a nice young fighter with decent speed, but he didn't show me any real power," Shufford said of the winner. Shufford did make an effort to get into the thick of things in Round Four with a number of single and double left hooks which translated to hey, I'm not just here to lay down. Just when it started to get interesting, Shufford suffered a cut left eyelid early in the sixth. With blood flowing on and off, Horace got back into the shell as Pettway found renewed vigor to dominate a rather predictable last four rounds.

With the win, Pettway runs his mark to 27-1 with 25 KOs, while Shufford, who received only Round Four on *The Ring* card (99-91) fell to a reported 38-4-3, 23 KOs.

Reggie Gross, 210, Baltimore, got a knockout win at 2:51 of Round Two of a scheduled eight. The victim was Harry Terrell, 212, Cleveland. Both traded rather freely in Round One, but the 36-year-old journeyman visitor got caught with a right uppercut and then a crunching left hook to drop him head first. There was no need for a count from referee Larry Barrett.

Chuck Sturm, 135, Glen Burnie, Md., took a six-round unanimous decision over Anthony (Tony) Collier, 138, Youngstown, Ohio. No scores were given, but it was a clear win for Sturm. Collier just didn't have the strength to keep Chuck off him as he slowly wilted under the pressure. Collier took a count from referee Ray Klingmeyer in the fifth when he fell through the ropes from what appeared a combination punch-shove.

Greg Keys, 145, Baltimore, won by TKO at 2:33 of Round Two in a scheduled four against Perry McQueen, 147, High Point, NC. Three knockdowns ended the bout. Ref; Milton Greene.

Tracy Muse, 142, Baltimore, got a KO win at 0:52 of the second over Steve Lindsey, 144, Winston-Salem, NC. The switch-hitting Lindsey didn't have much to offer and was dropped in ring center by a short right. He just barely beat the count of referee Tim Moore, but it was ruled a knockout. Scheduled for four.

In yet another scheduled four, Willie Galiwango, 147, Richmond, Va., got a first-round TKO win over Felton Hill, 147, Wash., DC. The time was 2:20. The comebacking Hill was dropped by a single right hand, but made it up at five. Later referee Greene stopped the bout.

Timekeeper: Izzy Bach.
Promoters: Don King & Maryland Showcase (Max Kisner).
Judges: Tim Moore, Frank Kelly, Tom Kelly & Cecchini.
Matchmaker: Al Braverman.
Attendance: 2,700
(1-6-88)

JACK OBERMAYER

MICHIGAN

▶**DETROIT**—Cobo Hall—**David "Machine Gun" Braxton** waved goodbye to 1987 and probably his dreams of a big payday when he was beaten by Californian Ron Daniels on a fourth-round TKO.

Braxton, scheduled for an NBC television bout against **Darrin Van Horn**, went down once in the third and twice in the fourth before the ref pulled the plug.

The quick win in the scheduled middleweight 10 left Braxton badly beaten and cut as Daniels improved his record to 15-5.

In the co-main event for the Michigan light heavyweight belt, Arthel "Bam Bam" Lawhorne successfully defended his title with a unanimous 10-round decision over Booker T. Word. Each weighed 175.

Dorrell Van Horn, 158, left his mark 4-0 with a unanimous six-round decision over Ohio's Tony Hopkins, 160, who fell to 6-6-1.

Detroiter Lorenzo Canaday, 218, took a six-round decision over Lima, Ohio's Andre Crowder, 197. Canaday is 7-4-1, Crowder, 6-6-1.

New York's Art Tucker, 216, kept his record perfect (6-0) with a decision over Youngstown, Ohio's Bruce Johnson, 201, in a four-rounder. Johnson is 3-5-1.

Again in the heavyweight class, 237-pound Robert Loving debuted successfully against 240-pound Jimmy Herter, winning a four-round decision. Herter is 1-1.

Detroiter Kirk Harris, 129, whacked Youngstown's Clinton Houston, 129, so thoroughly that the debuting Houston couldn't answer the bell for the second round of their scheduled four. Harris is 9-2-1.

Promoter: Tommy Vaca/Ringside Productions.
Physician: Dr. Michael Sherbin.
Referee: Sam Williams.
TV: PASS Cable Network.
Attendance: 2,286.
(12-18-87)

▶**COBO ARENA**—The monthly Kronk/Lite Beer/Little Caesar's night at the fights brought 9,186 Detroiters out on a blustery winter's night for some ring heat that produced two major upsets and the probable end to the sterling career of **Joe Louis Manley.**

Manley, 33-4, former Olympian and world titleholder, was bombed into unconsciousness by Floridian Dexter Smith, 25-10, at 33 seconds into the second stanza of their welterweight contest.

Smith's right connected flush on Manley's chin, lifting him off the canvas and sending him crashing to the mat, where his head bounced with sickening force. Ringside doctors rushed in to administer first aid, while Smith was carried around the ring by his handlers in a victory lap.

However, Manley stablemate Jammin' Jeff Thompson kept his perfect streak going with a decisive KO at 1:19 of the third over light heavyweight Ken Bentley (10-3) of Nashville. Thompson, a southpaw, goes 15-0 while posturing for a title shot.

Another Kronk luminary who remained untainted by defeat is lightweight Stanley Longstreet, who TKO'd Sebastian Wilburn (11-10) at 1:49 of the third stanza.

Welterweight Gary Smith (4-2) of Ypsilanti lost to Phil Fuller (5-2) of Detroit at 1:47 of the first stanza. Fuller had Smith down twice with rights and the referee stopped the bout before permanent damage could be done.

Lightweight Tim Young (2-1) spoiled the debut of game southpaw Atwillow Wright, taking a split decision after the Detroiters had provided the crowd with plenty of action.

In the evening's other upset Michigan light heavyweight champ Arthel "Bam Bam" Lawhorn turned in a lackluster performance against better conditioned and hungrier Frankie Swindell (12-2) of Nashville, losing a unanimous decision that dropped Lawhorn to 20-13. The tank-like Swindell waded in, exacting a toll from the body of Lawhorn with good left hooks that seemed to keep Lawhorn confused and on the defensive as Swindell just kept on coming.

Two undefeated middleweights opened the card, continuing Detroit's rivalry with Ann Arbor. Detroit's Dorrell Van Horn made his mark 4-0 with a unanimous, six-round decision over Ann Arbor's Shawn Gray, who fell to 4-1. Gray, three inches taller with an inch edge

in reach, couldn't keep the persistent Van Horn from his appointed rounds.

Promoters: Bill Kozerski & Tommy Vaca.
Referees: Bobby Watson & Dale Grable.
Physicians: Sachs & Ruffino.
Timekeeper/Knockdowns: William Hunter & William Hunter Jr.
Announcer: Wally Jackson.
Judges: Herman McKalpain, Rose Grable & Rich Fisher.
TV: Pro-AM Sports Network (Pass).
(1-23-88)

TOM PARUSZKIEWICZ

MINNESOTA

▶**MOUNDS VIEW**—Bel Rae Ballroom—Coon Rapids middleweight Dan Schommer remained unbeaten as he pitched a shutout at St. Paul's James Shavers, taking a unanimous 10-round decision.

After receiving a severe cut on his forehead, Schommer, usually a puncher type, reverted to boxing the veteran Shavers and won going away. There were no knockdowns as Shavers took everything that Schommer threw, but he was also unable to penetrate the Schommer defense to score any heavy leather of his own. Although Shavers is nowhere near a contender, he can be a tough test for a young fighter like Schommer. Over the years, Shavers has met some top-rated fighters.

The win raised Schommer's record to a respectable 15-0-0 as Shavers slipped to 17-15-0.

Scott Papasadora, Minneapolis middleweight (15-4-1) decisioned the oft-beaten Walter Cowans Jr. of Milwaukee, who now has a 7-41-0 with one no contest record, over six rounds.

Richie Albrecht, Anoka, (6-0-0) won a unanimous five-round verdict over Richard Campbell of Milwaukee (5-9-0) in a lightweight scrap.

Jay Nelson of Cedar Rapids, Ia. (4-0-0), heavyweight, knocked out Burnell Selders of Milwaukee (0-2-0) in the first round.

Pro debuting Todd McMurrin, Cedar Rapids, Ia., stopped Scott Carlquist of Coon Rapids (1-1-0) in the third heat. They are middleweights.

Attendance: 350 (est.).
(12-15-87)

GEORGE D. BLAIR

NEW JERSEY

▶**ATLANTIC CITY**—Sands Hotel-Casino—When **Sugar Ray Leonard** is your manager, it can be the best or worst of times. Leonard is too high a standard to compare yourself with, while many might suggest that his stable gets a built-in edge and exposure because of his backing.

Robert Byrd, 130¾, is such a fighter, and his 10-round unanimous decision over Aristedes Acevedo, 130, NYC was met with mixed reviews in both the scoring and at a post-fight gathering with Leonard and his pupil standing by his side.

The Dallas resident got off swiftly enough against his much taller foe, and it looked like an early end was in sight. Byrd landed solid leaping left hooks to the jaw and dug telling right leads to the body. When Acevedo wouldn't fall, Byrd became a bit confused by it all.

"This was one of the few times I saw frustration on my guy's face," Leonard said after Byrd hurt Acevedo several times without finishing him. "The problem with Acevedo was that he stood straight up all the time. He walked in with a taunting kind of manner and was never in the same place. I'm glad Robert went through this. He needs to fight every kind of style."

"Killer instinct is not something I can learn from Ray, I've got to teach it to myself," said Byrd, who broke into a laugh when Leonard subsequently pretended to strangle him.

Byrd let Acevedo back into it for a short spell in the late middle rounds when the confusion was compounded by a need for proper pacing to ensure going 10 rounds for the first time. He came out unloading in the final stanza, however, and drove Acevedo back to the ropes with some pretty combinations. A left hook and glancing right dropped his man briefly, but once again, he got off the hook.

The knockdown capped what should have been an open and shut verdict, but the afternoon's quizzical scoring continued with three widely spaced tallies. Rocky Castellani had it much too close at 95-94. Eva Shain was right in the middle with a 97-92, and John Stewart may have been a bit too harsh on Acevedo with a 100-89 card. The referee was Tony Orlando. Byrd upped his record to 15-0, nine KOs, while the spindly Acevedo continued his trialhorse ways and fell to 16-6-2, eight via KO.

Troy Watson and Ralph Smiley gave the Copa Room crowd plenty of punching but few fireworks. They were akin to busy bees who had their stingers short circuited; especially so Smiley, who was surely the shining example of an ineffective aggressor. Watson, 165, Baltimore, while backing off for the most part, furnished a rather polished counter routine and took what was the cards only clear cut scoring win over the 163½ lb. Ithaca, NY product. Castellani had it 60-55; Stewart, 60-54, and Shain 58-56, to give Watson the unanimous six-round verdict. Ref; Vinnie Rainone. *The Ring* card read the same as Castellani's.

Bobby Brown, 142¼, Brigantine, NJ, looked rather fortunate to grab a six-round unanimous decision over Esau Staley, 140, NYC. While the solid action bout saw numerous momentum swings, it appeared that the quality shots were clearly in favor of Staley, something the judges did not put much stock in. Castellani tabbed it 60-55, Stewart, 59-56, and Shain saw it 58-56. While *The Ring* had it even in rounds (30-30), overall Staley was sturdier. Ref; Orlando.

Fred Whitaker, 226½, Winston-Salem, NC, better not believe he can get away with this kind of performance again and still come out a winner. Fighting just enough to lose, Whitaker eked out a four-round majority decision over Donnell Jackson, 232, Wash., DC, mainly because Jackson had a point deducted from his totals by referee Rainone for holding in the last round. Whitaker appeared to go all out only in Round Two. Scores: Stewart; 39-36. Castellani, 38-38, and Shain 38-37. *The Ring* saw it 38-37 for Jackson.

Timekeeper: Justin Bucanico.
Promoters: Gelb/HBA/Sands.
Matchmaker: Ron Katz.
(1-23-88)

JACK OBERMAYER

▶**ATLANTIC CITY**—Harrah's Marina Hotel & Casino—The Tyson-Holmes weekend offered added attractions for the insatiable, winding up in a rip-roarer more fit for a club than a casino. And for the winner, touted Vinnie Burgese, it may have marked his level of proficiency. Burgese, 139¾, S. Phila., pounded out a unanimous decision over D.J. Turner, 138½, Balto., in a grueling infighting, 10. The stocky Turner was made for Vinnie, right in front of him and always throwing. After a pitched battle in the early going, Burgese seemed to assert himself, and the fight settled into a pattern. But the "pattern" included using his head in place of a jab. In the seventh, Turner fired a chopping right behind the ear as Burgese leaned in, and dropped him on his face. The favorite had to scramble for his life in a sensational round, but regained control with counters off the ropes in sizzling exchanges. Al DeVito voted 98-93, Thomas Kaczmarek 98-92 and Ron Burns 99-91 as Vinnie won his 13th without loss. Turner dropped to 15-6. Ref, Tony Perez.

Bryant Paden, 134¾, Phila., won a repeat TKO over Owen McGeachy, 136, Brooklyn, in a scheduled eight. Owen had improved enough to make the normally cautious Paden fight for his life in sensational action, but he still wasn't ready to best his lone conqueror. McGeachy was rocked several times, cut over the left eye and trailing on two cards when he complained of blurred vision in his corner. Owen didn't come out for the seventh, falling to 7-2, while Bryant went to 10-3. Ref, Steve Smoger.

Roosevelt Williams, 166, Bklyn., KO'd Edward Robbins, 161, Phila., with one right-hand bomb at 2:43 of the first of an explosive four. Ref, Perez.

Vernon Phillips, 151½, Troy, NY, clubbed out a unanimous win over Manuel Braga Opher, 154, Phila., in a savagely fought four. Manuel was badly staggered in the first, drawing a standing eight. Ref, Perez.

Merqui Sosa, 164, Santo Domingo via NYC, TKO'd Philip Hall, 164¼, Lancaster, PA, at 1:29 of the third, scheduled four. Hall was taking a beating, mounted a momentary, desperate rally, but was then rocked into a standing eight and was in no condition to continue. Ref, Smoger.

Promoters: Frank Gelb & HBA Inc.
Matchmaker: Ron Katz.
Attendance: 1,150.
Timekeeper: Art Spell.
Announcer: Ed Derian.
(1-23-87)

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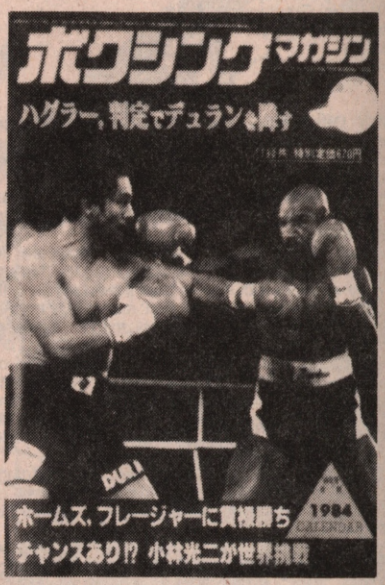

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▶**ATLANTIC CITY**—Resorts International—It was expected to be a make-or-break showdown for vaunted **John Wesley Meekins,** but his destruction of Othal "Choo Choo" Dixon was so commanding, it looked like a mismatch. Dixon, 140¾, Baltimore via Houston, came out of the blocks fast in the scheduled 10. He backed up Meekins, 142, NYC, with a no-nonsense attack on the inside. But John Wesley fought well in reverse, giving out almost as much as he took in crunching exchanges to the body. Late in the first, he made a short sidestep and popped a right behind the ear. It didn't look serious and "Choo Choo" seemed to stumble more over Meekins' foot than from the punch. Everyone but Meekins seemed surprised when he kept on stumbling back into his own corner, where his tormentor put on ferocious pressure. The Texan bobbed frantically, but couldn't escape them all. Eventually, a left hook and right dropped him just short of the bell.

Once in trouble, Dixon couldn't have gotten off with a lawyer. Starting the second, Meekins was all over him with cold precision. Two booming rights crumbled him off the ropes. Then he was ravaged with a two-handed volley until ref Frank Cappuccino rescued him at 0:53. The winner rose to 17-1-2, while the loser fell to 17-3.

The co-feature 10 ended as suddenly, but with more of a groan than a gasp. Joey Ferrell, 145, Franklinville, NJ, showed a surprising lack of resolve once he was dug in the ribs by Micky Ward, 138¾, Lowell, Mass. Joey went down for the third time at 2:36 of the first, suffering his first inside the distance loss in an 8-6-2 log. Ward evidenced good power and a killer instinct in going 15-1. Ref, Vinnie Rainone.

Melton Bowen, 213, Jamaica via Miami, exhibited a crude, but vigorous attack that would not be denied in chopping down huge Hassan Shabazz, 251, Hartford, at 1:28 of the first, scheduled six. The Chris Dundee prospect swarmed all over Shabazz, who is no bum, dropping him once for a TKO. It was the unbeaten Bowen's seventh win, all in less than a round, while Hassan suffered his first defeat after five wins and a draw. Ref, Cappuccino.

Jose Morales, 156¾, Bronx, got cheated of a TKO win by the ref when Rainone disqualified Francis Kane, 154, Paris via NYC, at 2:54 of the third, scheduled six. Kane was hurt to the body, thoroughly beaten, and clutching for his life when the ref threw him out. Morales went to 3-0, Kane to 1-2-1.

Jorge Collazo, 136¼, Ponce, PR, via Perth Amboy, NJ, had too much razzle-dazzle for Robert Hightower, 136¼, Phila., to take a unanimous decision in a spirited four. Jorge became 4-1-1, while Robert lost his first after two wins. Ref, Rainone.

Promoter: Bob Arum (Top Rank, Inc.).
Matchmakers: Teddy Brenner & Ron Katz.
Attendance: SRO, 1,300.
TV: ESPN.
Judges: Lynne Carter, William Kostrub & Rich Strange.
Timekeeper: Roosevelt Gilbert.
Announcer: Mike Buffer.
(1-15-88)

▶**ATLANTIC CITY—Resorts International**—Irrepressible **Terrence Alli** continued his latest comeback with a repeat victory over Miguel "El Zorro" Santana. This was a rematch of their USBA lightweight title thriller of a year ago, minus the crown. Every fan knows what they say about replays of great fights. Terrence even promised as much, saying beforehand that he had no intention of trading with Santana this time.

"I was brawling," he explained. "That's why Santana was one of my toughest fights."

For the first six, it was an awkward, tedious joust. Terrence ventured within range only briefly and the crowd grew restless. In the seventh, the tight contest broke open. Alli, 139, NYC, punished Santana, also 139, NYC, with side-stepping rights as Miguel tired in pursuit. Action picked up, but became one-sided as Terrence battered the Puerto Rican through 10. Milo Savage scored 98-93, "Rocky" Castellani 98-94 and John Riley 96-94, all for Alli.

"This fight didn't mean much to me, other than getting a win," shrugged the winner in going 35-5-2. Santana dropped to 20-3-1. Rudy Battle refereed.

Any disappointment in the main event was more than compensated for by a riproaring co-feature in which Steve Little, 156½, Reading, scored a unanimous win over Ismael Negron, 156¼, Newark, 10. Little was cut in the third and rocked in the fourth, but proved both too rugged and skilled for the tiring bomber. After a wide-open sixth, Steve took over and outclassed Negron, though Ismael hung tough to an exciting finish. The judges were a bit rough on the loser, Castellani voting 98-92, Savage 97-94 and Riley 99-92. Little went to

WORLD RATINGS
BY THE INTERNATIONAL BOXING FEDERATION
(As of January, 1988)

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Mike Tyson (US)
1. Trevor Berbick (US)
2. Carl Williams (US)
3. Frank Bruno (England)
4. Tony Tucker (US)
5. James Douglas (US)
6. Orlin Norris (US)
7. Tony Tubbs (US)
8. Tim Witherspoon (US)
9. Francesco Damiani (Italy)
10. Adilson Rodriguez (Brazil)
11. Willie de Wit (Canada)
12. Rodney Frazier (US)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Champion
Evander Holyfield (US)
1. Anthony Witherspoon (US)
2. Bert Cooper (US)
3. Patrick Lumumba (Kenya)
4. Alfonso Ratliff (US)
5. Taoufik Balbouli (France)
6. Bash Ali (US)
7. Sherman Griffin (US)
8. Jose Flores (Uruguay)
9. Sammy Reeson (England)
10. Tony Fulilangi (Tonga)
11. Glenn McCrory (England)
12. Ralf Rocchigiani (Germany

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Charles Williams (US)
1. Bobby Czyz (US)
2. Nestor Giovannini (Argentina)
3. Tony Willis (US)
4. Chris Reid (US)
5. Uriah Grant (US)
6. Rufino Angulo (France)
7. Leslie Stewart (Trinidad)
8. Willy Featherstone (Canada)
9. Joe Lasisi (Nigeria)
10. Tom Collins (England)
11. Alex Blanchard (Holland)
12. Richard Caramanolis (France)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Chong-Pal Park (Korea)
1. Lindell Holmes (US)
2. Vincent Boulware (US)
3. Graciano Rocchigiani (Germany)
4. Dario Mattioni (Argentina)
5. Nicky Walker (US)
6. Fulgencio Obelmejias (Venezuela)
7. Sanderline Williams (US)
8. Tarmo Uusivirta (Finland)
9. Tyrone Frazier (US)
10. Lenny LaPaglia (US)
11. Nigel Benn (England)
12. Doug Sam (Australia)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Frank Tate (US)
1. Michael Olajide (Canada)
2. Michael Nunn (US)
3. Mike McCallum (Jamaica)
4. Marvin Hagler (US)
5. Doug DeWitt (US)
6. Herol Graham (England)
7. Tony Sibson (England)
8. Mark Janssen (Australia)
9. Frank Winterstein (Germany)
10. Iran Barkley (US)
11. Roberto Duran (Panama)
12. Jose Quinones (Puerto Rico)

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Matthew Hilton (Canada)
1. Buster Drayton (US)
2. Robert Hines (US)
3. Troy Waters (Australia)
4. Donald Curry (US)
5. Darrin Van Horn (US)
6. John Jackson (US)
7. Francisco DeJesus (Brazil)
8. Said Skouma (France)
9. Milton McCrory (US)
10. Carlos Santos (Puerto Rico)
11. In-Chul Baek (Korea)
12. Lupe Aquino (US)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Championship
Vacant
1. Simon Brown (US)
2. Tyrone Trice (US)
3. Lloyd Honeyghan (England)
4. Rollin Williams (US)
5. Tomas Molinares (Colombia)
6. Mark Breland (US)
7. Felipe Canela (US)
8. Bobby Joe Young (US)
9. Al Long (US)
10. Yun-Kil Chung (Korea)
11. Vincent Pettway (US)
12. Maurice Blocker (US)

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Championship
Vacant
1. Frankie Warren (US)
2. Buddy McGirt (US)
3. Jong Jung Pacquing (Philippines)
4. Joe Manley (US)
5. Meldrick Taylor (US)
6. Harold Brazier (US)
7. Genaro Leon (Mexico)
8. Sang-Ho Lee (Korea)
9. Reyes Cruz (Dominican Republic)
10. John Meekins (US)
11. Hugo Hernandez (Argentina)
12. Engels Pedroza (Venezuela)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Vinny Pazienza (US)
1. Greg Haugen (US)
2. Pernell Whitaker (US)
3. Edwin Rosario (Puerto Rico)
4. Amancio Castro (Colombia)
5. Angel Hernandez (Puerto Rico)
6. Fred Pendleton (US)
7. Gert Bo Jacobsen (Denmark)
8. John Duplessis (US)
9. Primo Ramos (Mexico)
10. Sakad Petchyindee (Thailand)
11. Frankie Randall (US)
12. Terrence Alli (US)

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Rocky Lockridge (US)
1. Harold Knight (US)
2. Jim McDonnell (England)
3. Mario Miranda (Colombia)
4. Tomas Da Cruz (Brazil)
5. Salvatore Bottiglieri (Italy)
6. Tony Lopez (US)
7. Ariel Duran (Philippines)
8. Tyrone Jackson (US)
9. Felipe Orozco (Colombia)
10. Jean Baptiste Mendy (France)
11. Geron Porras (Philippines)
12. Nicky Perez (US)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Antonio Rivera (Puerto Rico)
1. Kwon Chul (Korea)
2. Calvin Grove (US)
3. Tyrone Downes (Trinidad)
4. Lupe Suarez (US)
5. Hector Lopez (US)
6. George Navarro (US)
7. Victor Callejas (Puerto Rico)
8. Javier Marquez (Mexico)
9. Mauricio Stecca (Italy)
10. Jean Marc Renard (Belgium)
11. Alexander Wassa (Indonesia)
12. Jae-Yong Hwang (Korea)

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Seung-Hoon Lee (Korea)
1. Moises Fuentes (Colombia)
2. Luis Mendoza (Colombia)
3. Samart Payakaroon (Thailand)
4. Jose Sanabria (US)
5. Jesse Benavides (US)
6. Daniel Blanco (Colombia)
7. Valerio Nati (Italy)
8. James Pipps (US)
9. Aaron Lopez (US)
10. Ruben Palacio (Colombia)
11. Jorge Diaz (US)
12. Loris Stecca (Italy)

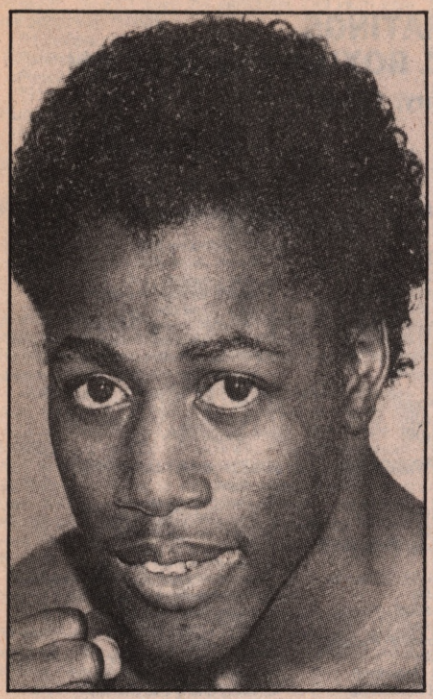
BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Kelvin Seabrooks (US)
1. Thierry Jacob (France)
2. Jimmy Navarro (US)
3. Kaokor Galaxy (Thailand)
4. Gaby Canizales (US)
5. Fernando Beltran (Mexico)
6. Ernie Cantaluna (Philippines)
7. Fabrice Benichou (France)
8. Miguel Maturana (Colombia)
9. Raul Perez (Mexico)
10. Wiem Sapulete (Indonesia)
11. Lucio Lopez (Argentina)
12. Frankie Duarte (US)

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Elly Pical (Indonesia)
1. Raul Diaz (Colombia)
2. Juan Polo (Colombia)
3. Santos Laciar (Argentina)
4. Gilberto Roman (Mexico)
5. Cesar Polanco (Dominican Republic)
6. Francisco Alvarez (Colombia)
7. Mauro Diaz (Mexico)
8. Tae-Il Chang (Korea)
9. Luis Curtis (US)
10. Pat Bracero (Philippines)
11. Soon-Chun Kwon (Korea)
12. Dong-Chung Lee (Korea)

FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Chang-Ho Choi (Korea)
1. Rolando Bohol (Philippines)
2. Duke McKenzie (England)
3. Dodie Penalosa (Philippines)
4. Ramon Medal (US)
5. Thanomsak Sithbaobay (Thailand)
6. Miguel Mercedes (Dominican Republic)
7. Dave McAuley (England)
8. Elvis Alvarez (Colombia)
9. Mauricio Bernal (Colombia)
10. Adrian Roman (Argentina)
11. Javier Lucas (Mexico)
12. Orlando Canizales (US)

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Jum-Hwan Choi (Korea)
1. Mario Demarco (Argentina)
2. Sonny Vidal (Philippines)
3. Rudolfo Alvarado (Mexico)
4. Isidro Perez (Mexico)
5. Francisco Tejedor (Colombia)
6. Udin Beharudin (Indonesia)
7. Jorge Cano (Mexico)
8. Toribio Riascos (Colombia)
9. Virgillo Chifundo (Panama)
10. Tacy Macalos (Philippines)
11. Wilbaldo Salazar (Mexico)
12. Jose DeJesus (Puerto Rico)

MINI FLYWEIGHTS
Championship
Vacant
Kuyung-Yon Lee (Korea)
1. Boy Lucas (Philippines)
2. Samuth Sithnarvepol (Thailand)
3. Eric Chavez (Philippines)
4. Trang Bunlerd (Thailand)
5. Nico Thomas (Indonesia)
6. Santiago Mendez (Mexico)
7. John Arief (Indonesia)
8. Den Sorthanikul (Thailand)
9. Nana Suhana (Indonesia)
10. Hector Patri (Argentina)
11. Rolando Protacio (Philippines)
12. Julius Leojan (Indonesia)



Terrence Alli launched another drive at the lightweight title with a 10-round nod over Miguel "El Zorro" Santana in Atlantic City. It was Alli's second win over Santana, but the encore failed to produce the fireworks which highlighted their first encounter.

14-7-1 and Negron to 14-4. Ref, Paul Venti.

Fred Whitaker, 232, Wilmington, NC, spoiled the debut of touted amateur Amos Lisboa, 208, Rio Piedras, PR, with a split decision, four. Amos boxed well, but couldn't hold off the charging slugger and was badly staggered in the fourth. Fred became 3-1. Ref, Battle.

Traore Ali, 195, Bamako, Mali, via NYC, got a majority technical decision over Kevin Bucceroni, 198, Blackwood, NJ, after 0:51 of the third, scheduled four. The slugging Bucceroni was taking a ferocious beating, but looked about to turn it around when a vicious clash of heads cut both severely. Ali's was worse and he was unable to continue, with the verdict going to the cards. Traore became 5-4 and Kevin 4-2. Ref, Venti.

In a wild battle of debutees, Roosevelt Williams, 169, NYC, dropped a reckless Fred Johnson, 170, NYC, In the first and second, then withstood a game charge to score a unanimous win, four. Ref, Battle.

Promoter: Bob Arum (Top Rank, Inc.).
Matchmakers: Teddy Brenner & Ron Katz.
Attendance: 550 (est.).
TV: ESPN.
Timekeeper: Art Spell.
Announcer: Mike Buffer.
(12-23-87)

J.R. JOWETT

NEW YORK

▶**NEW YORK CITY**—Felt Forum—Perennial bridesmaid **Howard Davis Jr.** (142½, Glen Cove, N.Y.) looked somewhat better than usual in scoring a ninth-round TKO over Ali Karim Muhammad (142, Chicago) in a main go scheduled for 10. It was a one-sided bout with Davis winning every round, but Muhammad turned in his usual courageous effort and managed to make it entertaining. Davis showed considerable skill and wobbled Muhammad once or twice. Ref Luis Rivera stepped in rather suddenly at 2:15 of the ninth to call a halt; this decision appeared to be without foundation, save for the fact that Muhammad was clearly outclassed. The crowd booed the stoppage, but the fighters themselves were applauded. Davis picked up his 13th KO; his overall record is 30-4-1. Muhammad, one of the best journeymen at his weight, is 14-13-1, four kayoes.

The co-feature was a reasonably interesting 10-rounder in which **Tyrone Crawley** (141½, Philadelphia) took a majority decision from Angel Rodriguez (139, Chicago). This was a chess match in which Crawley just plain outskilled the aggressive Rodriguez. Angel, who is 12-3-1, six kayoes, came out fast and did well in the first round, but tired quickly and managed to look good only when Crawley was resting. Crawley cut Rodriguez up pretty badly, but was never able to put him in danger. Judge Barbara Perez scored for Crawley, 8-2; judge Ted Wint also liked Crawley, 6-4; judge Marvin Goldberg had it 5-5. *The Ring* had it 7-3, Crawley. Tyrone's record is 22-2, seven kayoes. Arthur Mercante Jr. refereed.

The three prelims turned out to be one beauty sandwiched between two beasts. In the first, Ricardo Cepeda (123, The Bronx) stopped Walter Gallman (118½, Newark, N.J.) at the end of the second in a scheduled six. A first round in which nary a punch was thrown was followed by a second in which the hapless Gallman went down early from a left to the body and later in the round from a right to the jaw. This second knockdown occurred at the bell, and ref Johnny Colan lost no time in stopping it. Between the knockdowns, Cepeda showed very little inclination to attack his man; it was more a matter of Gallman not being too earnest about avoiding his punches. This "match" was lustily booed. Cepeda's record is 5-0-1, four kayoes; Gallman's, not surprisingly, is 0-4.

In a four-rounder, Baltimore's Oscar Ponce (141) improved to 2-0 with a unanimous decision over Junior Rodriguez (138, Norwalk, Conn.) This was by far the best bout of the evening, a real down-home slugging match with no finesse but plenty of enthusiasm. Ponce, who looks a little like a young Roberto Duran, is a buzzsaw who misses a lot but takes a good shot and throws bombs in return. Rodriguez, who sports a 2-3 record, was a perfect opponent for him and made a fine fight of it. Judges Wint, Goldberg and Danny Whelan and *The Ring* agreed on a 4-0 score for Ponce, but it was the most competitive shutout the Forum has seen in awhile. Mercante Jr. was the referee.

In an insultingly bad match scheduled for six, Art Tucker (210, Newark, N.J.) stopped Richard Hoard (228, Centralia, Ill.) at 0:58 of the first. Hoard looks and fights like Captain Kangaroo. He was wobbled by the first punch, then proceeded to flounder around like a drunk at a square dance before walking (almost welcomingly, it seemed) into a right uppercut that sent him to his knees. Ref Colan immediately signaled a halt, an expression of sheer disgust on his face. Tucker goes to 6-0-1, four kayoes; Howard is 2-2, one kayo.

Announcer: Ed Derian.
Timekeeper: Cecilio Pedraja.
Attendance: 1,938.
(1-21-88)

JOE D'O'BRIAN

OHIO

▶**YOUNGSTOWN**—Maronite Center—Popular local lad Roland Cummings, 135, Youngstown, sent his fans home happy as he pounded out a three-round TKO over Anthony Collier, 135, Cleveland.

But Cummings had to get up from an opening-round knockdown to do so.

Cummings barely survived the first as a left hook by the hard-hitting Collier put him on the canvas for a brief moment, and he was wobbly for the remainder of the round. But by the third round Cummings had gained command, surprising Collier with a flurry of blows that sent him through the ropes. The scheduled eight-rounder was then stopped at the 1:01 mark when Collier was unable to continue.

In the best fight of the night Raul Torres, 140, Cleveland, avenged his only pro loss by outpunching Pedro Garcia, 140½, Yonkers, to take a unanimous decision after a bruising, six-round war.

Clint Longmire, 164, Youngstown, dominated all the way in taking a unanimous, four-round decision over Wardell Langston, 162½, Youngstown.

Bert Gravely, 188, Beckley, West Virginia, outboxed and outpunched Mike Acey, 211, Brisbane, Pa., for a unanimous, six-round win. Acey suffered a broken nose.

In an exceptionally good bout that saw neither fighter give an inch, Walid Underwood, 139, Youngstown, and Fernando Ruperto, 139, Youngstown, battled to a six-round draw. This fight was a rematch, Ruperto having won the first meeting.

Promoter: Stan Goldich.
Matchmaker: Mike Acri.
Attendance: 500 (est.).
(1-20-88)

▶**NOTES:** The new promotional tandem of Dennis Rappaport and **Gerry Cooney** were in attendance with the hope of luring **Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini** into a

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match with their client, **Hector "Macho" Camacho.** Mancini was reportedly offered a $2.25 million guarantee plus percentages.

ERICH GLIEBE

TENNESSEE

▶**MEMPHIS**—Omni-Daisy Theatre—WBC Continental Americas cruiserweight champion Michael Greer of Memphis stopped Louisville, Kentucky's Keith Allen in the fourth round of a non-title bout.

Greer, who weighed 197, improved his record to 31-6-2, while Allen, a late substitute who weighed 195, found himself 10-10 after his most recent setback.

Greer decked Allen in the fourth with a combination to the head, dropped him again with another flurry, then flattened him for good with another combo at the 1:25 mark.

"The body shots did it," Greer told Pete Wickham of *The Commercial Appeal*. "The man was tough, but when I got him with the body shots, he slowed down."

Howard Rhodes, 124, Jersey City, New Jersey, stopped Kenny Cole, 128, Memphis, at 1:24 of the eighth and final round.

Louisville's Terrence Collier, 173, stopped Savannah, Tennessee's Stan Holt, 182, at 1:24 of the third of a scheduled six.

Covington's Will Sumerville, 139, finished well to win a split four-round decision over Louisville's James Ruff, 142. Each was making his pro bow.

Promoter: Tom Harmon/Mid South Boxing, Inc.
Matchmaker: Red Fortner.
Announcer: Sam Garland.
Judges: Gilbert Beam, James Perkins, Haywood Watts & Mark Acherson.
Referees: Jim Kidd & Irving Tucker.
Timekeeper: Rod Cardoni.
Physician: Jeff Hoover.
Attendance: 400 (est.).
(1-5-88)

MICHAEL GLENN

TEXAS

▶**CORPUS CHRISTI**—A 12-round and three 10-rounders highlighted this card, Roland Gomez, 122, capturing a split decision victory over Gilbert Contreras, 121, in the main event.

Texan **Lupe Suarez,** 132, outclassed Tommy Cordova, 132, New Mexico, and stopped him at 1:15 of the ninth round.

Meldrick Taylor, 140, Philadelphia, knocked out New Mexico's Richard Fowler, 140, at 2:10 of the second round.

Ohio's Jerry Page, 144, stopped Mexico's Alfredo Certa, 143, at 1:12 of the first round.

A scheduled eight ended at 2:03 of the sixth round with Ronnie DeLeon, 155, stopping Donald Tucker, 161. Both are from Texas.

A scheduled six saw Texan Ricky Alvarez, 128, stop Mexican Vidal Tellez, 129, at 1:32 of Round Four.

Promoter: Main Events.
Physician: Garcia.
Referees: Mark Tessman & Jessie Garza.
Timekeepers: Rivera & Santos.
Judges: Chuck Bertani, Dennis Collins & John Whitley.
(11-4-87)

▶**SAN ANTONIO**—Raymond Medel, 111, stopped Homero Aguillar, 111, 35 seconds into the 10th round of a scheduled 12-round main event between Texans.

A scheduled 10 witnessed Texan Lupe Miranda, 130, stop Tomas Gonzales, 134, at 2:55 of Round Five.

John M. Johnson, a 19-year-old weighing 113, made quick work of fellow Texan John Vasquez, 114, stopping him in just 1:51 of a scheduled six.

Another six, between 18-year-old Texans, went the distance, Robert Quiroga, 120, winning a majority decision over Julian Flores, 117.

Texans Raymond Flores, 133, and Raul Sanchez, 138, fought to a four-round draw.

Promoter: KO Productions.
Physician: Hernandez.
Referees: Barry Yates & Leonard Zuniga.
Timekeeper: Gavin.
Judges: David McCullough, Robert Martin & Ronnie Ralston.
(11-10-87)

▶**HOUSTON**—Promising 22-year-old flyweight **Orlando Canizales,** 112, Texas, stopped Mexico's Armando Velasco, 111, at 2:12 of the fourth round of a scheduled 12.

Vincent Boulware, 173, stopped fellow Texan Matthew Brooks, 171, at 59 seconds of the eighth and final round.

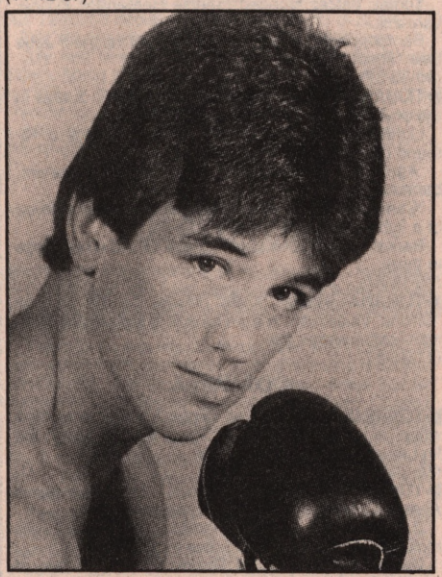
Two other eights involving Texans went the distance, J.J. Waters, 144, taking a split decision over Tim Rabon, 145, in one.

The second saw **Calvin Grove,** 127, win unanimously over Capri Lipkin, 126.

A scheduled six had Raymundo Chavez, 139, Texas, stop Louisiana's Robin Strong, 139, at 1:34 of the fifth.

Rodney Byers, 140, won by unanimous decision over Roland Martinez, 143, in a four-rounder between Texas natives.

Promoter: Houston Boxing Association.
Physician: Bransford.
Referees: Bynum & Sechelski.
Timekeepers: Ferris & Joerns.
Judges: Walters, McCullough & Yates.
(11-12-87)



Robin Blake continued on the comeback trail with a first-round TKO over Grant Walters in Lubbock, Texas.

▶**LUBBOCK**—Former lightweight contender **Robin Blake,** 140, ended a scheduled 10-round main event early, stopping Grant Walters, 142, in just 2:42.

Two eight-rounders filled out the card.

Dwain Lockman, 164, TKO'd Miguel Hernandez, 160, at 2:10 of Round Three.

Lupe Miranda, 134, stopped Sergio Duran, 136, at 2:38 of the third.

Promoter: Super Pro Events.
Physician: Passert Pun Hong.
Referees: Mark Tessman & Chuck Bertaini.
Judges: Fenton, Ralston & Sechelski.
(12-12-87)

▶**SAN ANTONIO**—Former world heavyweight champion **Leon Spinks,** 215, picked up some Christmas cash — and another loss, dropping a split, 10-round decision to Ladislao Mijangos, 201.

Oscar Pena, 156½, stopped Lonny Beasley, 151½, at 2:40 of the third round of a scheduled 10.

Obie Roberto Ochoa, 141, won a split, eight-round verdict over Hugo Espinosa, 140.

Raymond Rangel, 135½, and Alfredo Ortiz, 139½, battled to a four-round stalemate.

Promoter: Mario Hernandez.
Physician: James Womack.
Referees: Leonard Zuniga & Steve Jaramillo.
Timekeepers: Portilla & Perez.
Judges: Vince Amaya, Leonel Cruz & Sam Duran.
(12-20-87)

▶**HOUSTON**—Top welterweight contender **Frankie Warren,** 141, wasted little time with fellow Texan Brian Davenport, 145, scoring a knockout in just 1:16 of their scheduled 10-rounder.

The KO was Warren's 16th in his 24-0 record. Davenport fell to a reported 14-6.

Texan **Mike Williams,** 220, *The Ring's* Prospect of the Year in 1986, rebounded from his split decision loss to **Tim Witherspoon** to stop Florida's Leon Dixon, 194, at 2:53 of Round Two of another scheduled 10. Williams is 14-1 with 10 KOs.

Reggie Johnson, 160, Texas, stopped Louisiana's Ron Martin, 161, at 59 seconds of Round Seven in a scheduled eight to improve his record to 14-1-1.

Three four-rounders completed the card.

Louisiana's Jerry Stephens, 148, stopped Texan Frank Gilford, 147, at 1:10 of the fourth.

California's Dion Burgess, 258, won by unanimous decision over Oklahoma's Darryl Rouse, 268.

Louisiana's Anthony Stephens, 147, stopped Texan Roland Guerrero, 148, with just one second remaining in the bout.

Promoter: JAB Promotions.
Physician: Paris Bransford.
Referees: Robert Gonzales & Chris Jordan.
Timekeepers: Ferris & Gifrow.
Judges: Robert Martin, Lee McCowen & Terry Daniels.
(1-6-88)

VIRGINIA

▶**RICHMOND**—Richmond's Al Scott, 200, scored a 10-round decision win over Demetrius Edwards, 197, Ayden, North Carolina, in the main event.

Michael Peak, 168, Louisville, Kentucky, took an eight-round decision victory over Richmond's Ricky Perry, 166.

Richmond's Reggie Brown, 114, stopped Winston-Salem, North Carolina's Anthony Burnette, 116, in the opening round of a scheduled six.

The remainder of the show consisted of four-rounders.

Rodney Wyatt, 147, Richmond, decisioned Stacy Burris, 144, Norfolk.

Keith Hunter, 166, Richmond, stopped James Thomason, 173, Goldsboro, North Carolina, in the third.

William Galliwango, 150, Richmond, stopped Keith Roberts, 149, Louisville, in the first.

Promoter: Ray Brown.
Referees: Rothenberg & Green.
Judges: LaPrade & Moran.
Timekeepers: Hall & Peters.
Physician: Pulizzi.
(12-19-87)

CANADA

▶**TORONTO**—C.N.E. Coliseum—When Willie de Wit Promotions signed **Leon Spinks** for a 10-round bout against de Wit in Toronto, there were nothing but problems before the ink was even dry on the contracts.

With no money up front, Spinks complained of an injured knee. He was brought to Toronto to be examined by commission doctors, who agreed Spinks did have a knee injury. Spinks stated he would return to Detroit for the opinion of his own doctor and would contact the Toronto promoters. As expected, he never made an attempt to make contact, and de Wit Promotions not only pulled the bout off the show but withdrew completely, handing the card over to co-promoter All Canada Sports.

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A Canadian light heavyweight championship bout between defending champion **Willy Featherstone** of Toronto and Danny Lindstrom of Fort McMurray, Alta., was moved up to main event, prompting heavy requests for ticket refunds.

Featherstone, with a 19-3, 11 KOs record, was fully extended by the tough, young West Coast fighter, who matched his 174 pounds. But the champion prevailed, winning a unanimous 12-round decision by scores of 119-107, 115-113 and 118-109.

Neither went down, and action slowed between rounds seven and nine. But Lindstrom applied pressure in the final rounds, scoring with some good uppercuts and body shots, while the champion scored well from close range.

A 10-round lightweight bout between Ottawa's Greg Gayle and Toronto's Nedrae Simmons turned out to be the best bout on the undercard, Simmons winning a unanimous decision that did not sit well with some of the fans. Gayle, who had been in a hard fight in Windsor, Ontario November 19, appeared to slow some in rounds seven and eight, while Simmons was very active and aggressive.

In an eight-round heavyweight slugfest, Toronto's Jimmy Gradson, 193, just kept boring in on Toronto's Conroy Nelson, 216, to win a split decision. Nelson, a one-punch-at-a-time fighter, never had any control, his punches failing to have any effect on the tough Gradson, who never missed a chance to tee off.

Toronto welterweight DeWith Frazier had no opposition from Cleveland's Bobby Jones, stopping him in the fourth of a scheduled six.

Rick Souce, a welter from Toronto with a posted record of 14-0, won a six-round decision over Donovan Lee of Toronto, whose record was listed as 7-1. What was not mentioned was that Lee's previous bouts were in kick-boxing and that this was his professional debut as a legitimate boxer.

Derrick Edwards stopped James McNee in the third of a local lightweight bout.

Officials: Bullard, Davis, Cormier & Chretian.
Timekeepers: Shillilo & Paris.
Physicians: Sazant & Murray.
Announcer: Tilley.
Attendance: 2,000 (est.).
(12-8-87)

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MEXICO

NORTH BAJA CALIFORNIA

▶MEXICALI—Former Mexican featherweight champion Javier "Changa" Marquez won easily by points in 10 rounds over WBC junior featherweight champion **Juan "Kid" Meza.**

Lightweight Jorge "Maromero" Paez won by unanimous decision in 10 rounds over Robert "Bad Man" Lewis.

Former WBC junior bantamweight champion **Gilberto Roman** stopped Marco Antonio "Cachorro" Ramirez in six.

Bantamweight Fili Montoya TKO'd Pedro Rodriguez in two.

Featherweight Raul Franco stopped Heriberto Ruiz in three.

Tomas Valdez stopped Freddie Hernandez in one, bantams.

Bantamweight Pablo Valenzuela decisioned Jose Luis "Topo" Vazquez.
(10-30-87)

▶TIJUANA—Ramon Verdugo KO'd Rogelio Juarez in the seventh round of a featherweight match.

Lightweight Manuel "Mantecas" Medina took a 10-round decision from Julio Valle.

"Agulita" Rodiguez chilled Victor Moreno in seven, bantams.

"Camelo" Arreola embalmed Javier Castro in three of a lightweight match.

Bantamweight Jose Luis Herrera TKO'd Israel Vega in three.
(10-16-87)

▶TIJUANA—Rafael "Gato" Morfin TKO'd Narciso "Chicho" Valenzuela in eight rounds to capture the Mexican featherweight title.
(11-30-87)

COAHUILA

▶TORREON—Ariel Reyes upped his record to 19-1 when he knocked out Jesus "Pascualito" Lopez in the first round of a lightweight bout.
(10-30-87)

▶TORREON—Jose Luis "Gringa" Zepeda stopped Andres Cazares in three of a flyweight match.

Bantamweight Jose "Chamaco" Rodriguez demolished Jorge "Lobito" Morales in three.

Benjamin Aragon KO'd Pablito Caldero in two of another bantamweight contest.

Featherweight Carlos Reyes was a quick victor when Martin "Chico" Garcia was disqualified in the first round.
(11-6-87)

CHIAPAS

▶TAPACHULA—Welterweight Sergio "Tapana" Arreola scored a 10-round decision win over Sergio Sanchez.

Bantamweight Jose "Battling" Gordillo whipped Arnoldo Cisneros in 10.

Lightweight Jose "Aztequita" Guzman decisioned Rafael Aguilar.

Sinar Peralta decisioned Fernando Arrevillaga in a featherweight bout.
(11-6-87)

CHIHUAHUA

▶JUAREZ CITY—Fernie "Matorrito" Morales decisioned Candelario "Changuito" Carmona in a 10-round bantamweight bout.
(10-30-87)

FEDERAL DISTRICT

▶MEXICO CITY—Veteran Diego Avila scored a split decision over Victor Manuel Rabanales in a 10-round bantamweight bout.

Alejandro Sanabria TKO'd veteran Jorge Gutierrez in two of a flyweight encounter.

Featherweight Albino Degollado stopped Manuel Pichardo in six.

Bantamweight Francisco Bernal stopped Ignacio Jacome in two.

Featherweight Solin Smith TKO'd Mario Padilla in two.
(10-31-87)

▶MEXICO CITY—Southpaw Herminio Hernandez stopped Paco Ortiz in the sixth round of a lightweight contest.

Gerardo "Gatito" Gonzalez stopped Ricardo Aguilar in the first of a bantamweight bout.
(11-6-87)

▶MEXICO CITY—Mauricio Villegas stopped Ariel Favela in four rounds to retain his Mexican heavyweight championship.

Flyweight Fernando Hernandez won by disqualification over Justo Zuniga in five.

Jose "Latigo" Flores knocked out Nicolas Reyes in the sixth round of a featherweight match.

Luis Francisco Perez stopped Fernando Diaz in the third round of a welterweight contest.

Rafael Campos decisioned Mario Gonzalez, bantams.
(11-7-87)

▶MEXICO CITY—Armando Castro destroyed former Mexican flyweight champion Artemio Ruiz in four rounds.

Welterweight Eduardo "Lalo" Dominguez stopped Miguel Landin in six.

Lightweight Memo Cruz won by disqualification over Angel Castillo.

Bantamweight Daniel Pinzon stopped Jose Aguirre in the second.

Featherweight Jeronimo de la Cruz decisioned Fernando Velazquez over four.
(11-14-87)

▶MEXICO CITY—Mario Alberto Rodriguez improved his record to 13-4-2 with a unanimous decision over Bruno Rabanales in a 10-round lightweight matchup.

Welterweight Eduardo Maya whipped Felix Solano in 10.

Alejandro Morfin, brother of "Gato" Morfin, made his mark 2-0 with a two-round TKO of Jorge Betancourt, featherweights.

Featherweight Lauro Rodriguez TKO'd Tomas Cordoba in six.

Lightweight Alfonso Martinez outpointed Ricardo Pinzon over four.
(11-21-87)

▶MEXICO CITY—Ladislao "Rusian" Mijangos TKO'd Jorge Vilchis in the fourth round of a heavyweight bout.

Featherweight Albino Rosas stopped Martin Herrera in six.

Lightweight Arturo Gonzalez stopped Pedro Prudente in two.

Featherweight Humberto Gonzalez knocked out Atanasio Villarreal in three.

Juan Hernandez decisioned Arturo Quiroz over four in a welterweight match.
(11-28-87)

▶MEXICO CITY—Javier Lucas scored a unanimous decision over Gonzalo Villalobos in a 10-round flyweight encounter. The loss dropped the record of Villalobos to 18-4-1.

Lightweight Jose Mendez stopped Norberto Reyes in eight.

Jacinto Escalante stopped Simon Olvera in the first round of a flyweight scrap.

Flyweight Maximiliano Baeza flattened Jorge Flores in two.

Bantamweight Gregorio Cuica demolished Martin de Paz in the first.

Bantamweight Fernando Cervantes TKO'd Jose Luis Menendez in four.
(11-28-87)

GUERRERO

▶ACAPULCO—Rey Cisneros stopped Salvador Sara in the sixth of a bantamweight matchup.

Flyweight Candido Corono TKO'd Juan Figueroa in seven.

Featherweight Raul Gutierrez stopped Leonardo Cano in one.

Featherweights Roberto Pena and Carlos Perez drew.
(11-20-87)

GUANAJUATO

▶IRAPUATO—Gregorio Flores TKO'd Roberto Villanueva in four.
(11-20-87)

HIDALGO

▶ACTOPAN—Bantamweight Ruben Rivera improved his mark to 15-4 with a three-round knockout of Juan Sanchez.
(10-30-87)

JALISCO

▶GUADALAJARA—Mexican bantamweight champion Alberto "Hungaro" Martinez outscored Miguel "Hurricane" Juarez in a 10-round non-title fight.
(11-13-87)

NUEVO LEON

▶MONTERREY—Jaime "Rocky" Balboa TKO'd "Puma" Quinones in the third round of a lightweight

battle.
(10-30-87)

QUINTANA ROO

▶**CANCUN**—Santiago Mendez won a unanimous decision over former Mexican junior flyweight champion Luis Fernando "Pringa" Hernandez over 10 rounds.

Herminio Delgado stopped Miguel Angel "Macho" Pena in the fourth round of a lightweight bout.

Flyweight Lalo Ramirez stopped Paco Ramirez.

Promising bantamweight Juan Jose Xool chilled Federico Benitez in two.
(11-14-87)

▶**CANCUN**—Jorge (Schmeling II) Jimenez took a 10-round decision from Ramon Quintal in a 10-round lightweight match.

Flyweight Wilberth Capul stopped Bernardino Kumal in three.

Bantamweight Enrique Caceres whipped Ernesto Matos in six.

Flyweight Mateo Pacheco stopped Joe "Mash" Figueroa in six.

In another flyweight bout, Armando Cuevas decisioned Tilo Duran over six.
(11-20-87)

SINALOA

▶**LOS MOCHIS**—Veteran Jose Duarte won by unanimous decision over Alex de Leon in a middleweight match.
(11-15-87)

SONORA

▶**HUATABAMPO**—Lightweight Sergio "Chocolate" Zambrano took a split, 10-round decision over Ramon Flores.
(11-19-87)

TAMAULIPAS

▶**REYNOSA**—Eloy Ortega won a split, 10-round decision over Chuy Martinez.

Jorge "Sal" Fuentes knocked out Gilberto Saldivar in the fourth round of a bantamweight match.

Rocky Garcia chilled Antero Garcia in three.

Jorge L. Roman, brother of former WBC bantamweight champion Gilberto, TKO'd Genaro Corona in four.
(10-30-87)

▶**REYNOSA**—Homero Guel TKO'd Marciano "Chino" Muniz in seven to retail his Tamaulipas state junior flyweight title.
(11-12-87)

▶**REYNOSA**—Lightweight **Roque "Rocky" Montoya** won over Jesus "Petrolero" Gallardo in 10 rounds.

Jorge "Sal" Fuentes whipped Armando "Palitos" Perez in a 10-round bantamweight go.

Lightweight Eduardo Jacques decisioned Magdaleno Montoya over 10.

Pepillo Morales decisioned Enrique Gonzalez over 12 to capture the Tamaulipas state flyweight title.

Betillo Cantu knocked out Gabriel Cortez in two.

Juan Pablo Salazar chilled Santos Rodriguez in one.
(11-20-87)

VERACRUZ

▶**MINATITLAN**—Former Mexican flyweight champion Artemio Ruiz won a 10-round decision over Noel Herrera.

Tony "Carnicerito" Wilson whipped Julio Pliego in a 10-round bantam scrap.

Featherweight Franco Hernandez beat Alex Balderas over 10.
(10-30-87)

YUCATAN

▶**MERIDA**—Former Mexican junior flyweight champion Jorge Cano technically stopped Rodolfo Alvardo (Chapab's Little Tiger) in three.

Fernando "Candelita II" Varguez won a unanimous 10-round decision over veteran Rafael "Raton" Alonso, flyweights.

Javier "Candelita I" Varguez knocked out Rosendo "Hielerito" Ake in the sixth round of a flyweight bout.

Promising lightweight Oscar Gallegos stopped Nicaragua's Tony Correra in three.

Flyweight Miguel Chi decisioned Alcibiados Gallegos in four.
(11-14-87)

▶**NOTES:** Promising welterweight Marcos Gomez died as a result of an accident November 4 . . . Former pugilist Chucho Najera passed away November 20 . . . World welterweight champion **Jorge Vaca** and lightweight contender **Primo Ramos** relinquished Mexican crowns.

EDUARDO AMER

CENTRAL AMERICA

FRENCH WEST INDIES

▶**POINTE-A-PITRE**—France's Pierre Joly captured the vacant European middleweight title with a unanimous 12-round decision over Miguel Angel of Spain.

The scoring read 116-114 and 118-116 (twice).

Joly had failed in a previous shot at the European crown, being stopped in eight rounds by Ayub Kalule in 1985. In this fight, which produced little action, the Frenchman was much better than his opponent, who was fighting for only the second time in 18 months.
(12-18-87)

PUERTO RICO

▶Although it was not one of the best years for boxing in Puerto Rico, 1987 did show some improvement over the previous year with 18 boxing programs presented as opposed to 16 in 1986.

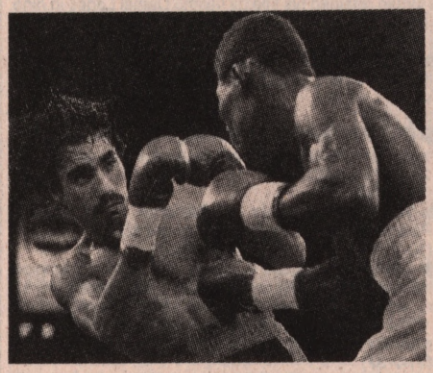
Video Deportes, with Yvonne Class and Pepito Cordero at the helm, were once more the driving force that kept boxing alive, presenting 10 shows versus four for Yampants (Pantalones Santiago and Yamil Chade), three for Ariques Sports Promotions (Gabriel Resto and Cheo Cruz) and one year-end program by Juan Valentin. A notable absence was **Don King Productions,** which throughout the years has been a positive factor in this market.

Beyond any shadow of a doubt, this year's award for Puerto Rico's Fighter of the Year must be given to **Julio Gervacio**. Not only did he capture the WBA junior featherweight title, he was, for the second straight year, the most active local with seven presentations. With the exception of his brilliant 12-round win over **Louie Espinoza** for the WBA title, all his victories for the year were by knockout. He started the year by stopping Jorge Ortiz January 10, then added Jaime Polo, Peligro Miranda, Jeff Hanna, Carlos Flores and, finally, Pandero Cruz, who was stopped in the final round of an exciting encounter.

The ebony-hued Gervacio reminds one of the warriors of a bygone era with his short-cropped hair and his total avoidance of showboat tactics.

The runner-up for this award is welterweight Danny "Popeye" Garcia, who scored five knockouts in five local starts.

The Puerto Rican Boxing Commission's choice of WBA bantamweight champ **Wilfredo Vazquez** for this top award does not stand up when one considers he only fought once on the island, and these awards should go to fighters active on the island to stimulate local participation.



THE RING's Mario Rivera Martino picked Julio Gervacio as Puerto Rico's 1987 Fighter of the Year. Gervacio is seen here (right) attacking Louie Espinoza en route to the WBA junior featherweight title.

Gervacio's win over Espinoza has to be voted the island's Fight of the Year. Gervacio's demonstration of coolness under fire and his effective use of right-hand leads, crisp left jabs and sneaky uppercuts against an ever-dangerous, hard-hitting opponent were unequaled.

Not far behind was Robert Rivera's knockout over Atilano Quinones, who had knocked him out earlier in the year. Rivera was spilled for a nine count in the second heat by a thunderous right and had to come from behind to win from the fast-fading Quinones in the ninth. Flyweight Jose Cheito Ruiz' 10-round draw against Angel Cucuso Rosario on the last card of the year was a close third.

Featherweight Angel Vargas went 6-0 for the year and, though he still has a lot to learn and he must lose some of his cockiness, he deserves Prospect of the Year over the commission's choice of Fernando Maldonado. Maldonado had three consecutive knockout wins, but was knocked out in his last bout of the year by **John John Molina.** Third choice goes to 107-pound Joey Borrero, who made his pro debut in May and reeled off three straight wins after a fine amateur career.

The Upset of the Year occurred in a 10-round prelim to the **Brian Mitchell**-Joe Rivera WBA junior lightweight title bout. Chade had his charge, Rafael Caban, in against Angel Cucuso Rosario. The match was supposed to be a tuneup for an eventual world title fight for the flyweight Caban, but Rosario upset the applecart by knocking out his previously unbeaten foe in five rounds.

The Gervacio title win over Espinoza has to be considered a major upset, also. Gervacio had not fought an opponent of merit, while Espinoza had looked terrific in three 1987 presentations, winning all by knockout against high-calibre opposition. Gervacio was expected to be a stepping stone.

Trainer of the Year honors must go to **Manny Siaca.** His two principal fighters, Vasquez and Rivera, fought for world titles as underdogs, Vazquez winning the WBA bantam title in Korea while Rivera settled for a disputed draw against Mitchell. Exuberant and volatile, Siaca also had a hand in the early development of **Edwin Rosario.**

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known as numero uno in baseball throughout Latin America, but he is just as capable handling boxing on live TV with Yvonne Class as well as handling his various radio commitments and deserves recognition as Most Influential Personality of the Year.

Did you ever hear of a newly crowned world boxing titleholder in dire economic distress because of lack of income? Well, that is the case with IBF featherweight king **Antonio Rivera,** who has held his title for 15 months but hasn't been able to make a defense! His manager, Hector Rivera, has been detained on very serious drug charges and his trainer, Lalo Medina, appears to be getting the runaround from matchmaker Bobby Goodman, who won the title bid. Rivera's defense was tentatively set for France at the end of January, but at the close of the year Antonio had yet to receive contracts, plane tickets, a guarantee, etc. Meanwhile, could one be a bigger disappointment than Hector Rivera, who was designated Promoter of the Year by the commission in 1985 but now, because of his confrontation with the law, cannot even negotiate for his fighter?

And how depressing can this great sport be when one turns on the TV in the closing days of the year only to hear the incoherent comments of possibly the greatest boxer in Puerto Rican history, **Wilfred Benitez.** Benitez, a former world welterweight champion who also held the WBA junior welter crown and the WBC super welter crown, was trying to describe his career-finishing loss in Argentina at the close of 1986. Not only did Benitez lose, he didn't get paid and was forced to remain in Argentina to try and get his money.

On the international front, Puerto Rico's biggest disappointment came with Edwin Rosario's loss to **Julio Cesar Chavez.**

John John Molina suffered a disastrous knockout loss at the hands of Mexican **Lupe Suarez,** but looked great in subsequent matches, particularly against Fernando Maldonado locally, to earn Comeback of the Year honors.

Middleweight **Jose Pepo Quinones** deserves mention as his hot-and-cold career took an upturn with three wins in fights many felt he would lose. Quinones knocked out **Doug DeWitt** and Englishman Errol Christie and locally beat previously undefeated Gilberto Espinoza.

Internationally, Puerto Rico gained two new world titleholders, Vazquez and the transplanted Dominican Gervacio, but lost two with Rosario and **Hector Camacho,** who vacated. Rosario could come back with an IBF title match against the winner of the **Vinny Pazienza**-Greg Haugen rematch. Camacho should take one of the three junior welterweight titles, then close the year with an anticipated match with Chavez. Vazquez should defend his title with ease in Japan, but should take heed and use his boxing skill more instead of relying on his hefty punch. Also look for Luby Callejas to eventually fight for the WBC featherweight title in an elimination contest when **Azumah Nelson** vacates that title. King is shooting for this possibility after Callejas showed well on the Chavez-Rosario undercard.

MARIO RIVERA MARTINO

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SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

▶**SAN SALVADOR DE JUJUY**—Argentine junior lightweight champion Julio Miranda outpointed Raul Gomez in 10.
(10-2-87)
▶**TARTAGAL**—Fidel Rivera outpointed Alfredo Chavez in 10, lightweights.
(10-2-87)
▶**CONCORDIA**—Alfredo Juarena outpointed Jose Saldivia in 10, welterweights.
(10-2-87)
▶**CATAMARCA**—Jorge Martinez outpointed Argentine welterweight champion Simon Escobar in nine rounds via a technical decision.
(10-2-87)
▶**BUENOS AIRES**—Argentine junior featherweight champion Pedro Decima halted Carlos "Torito" Laciar in eight rounds.
(10-3-87)
▶**SALTA**—Hector Hugo Vilte stopped Colombian Jose Cristobal Torres in six, welterweights.
(10-9-87)
▶**SANTA FE**—Welterweight Julio Cesar Vasquez knocked out Domingo Sosa in the first round.
(10-9-87)
▶**CERES**—Argentine light heavyweight champion Nestor Giovannini halted Nestor Albarrac in four.
(10-9-87)
▶**COMODORO RIVADAVIA**—Rising prospect Jorge Fernando Castro outpointed veteran Sergio Combis in 10, welterweights.
(10-9-87)
▶**MENDOZA**—Eduardo Galan outpointed Jorge Oscar Gonzalez in 10, lightweights.
(10-9-87)
▶**SAN JUAN**—Osvaldo Diaz stopped Jose Bronzone in four, middleweights.
(10-9-87)
▶**BUENOS AIRES**—Daniel Dominguez outclassed Carlos Martinez in 10, middleweights.
(10-10-87)
▶**TRENQUE LAUQUEN**—Featherweights Carlos Marinangeli and Raul Porcel drew in 10.
(10-10-87)
▶**LA RIOJA**—Unbeaten Alberto Mercedes Cortes knocked out Luis Soto in the third round to win the Argentine lightweight championship.

Cortes has finished all local opposition and should look for wider chances abroad.
(10-16-87)
▶**RAWSON**—Argentine flyweight champion Adrian Roman retained his title by halting Daniel Lagos in nine rounds.
(10-16-87)
▶**PRESIDENCIA ROQUE SAENZ PENA**—Rising flyweight Juan Carlos Zalazar outpointed Chilean Oscar Vergara in 10.
(10-16-87)
▶**BUENOS AIRES**—Middleweight Ramon Abeldano outpointed welterweight Adolfo Arce Rossi on a close 10-round decision.
(10-17-87)
▶**VILLAGUAY**—Mario Demarco outpointed Paraguayan Ricardo Escobar, flyweights.
(10-31-87)
▶**USHUAIA**—Argentine junior flyweight champion Hector Patri outpointed Chilean Jose Badilla in 12 rounds to win the vacant South American crown.

The title had been previously vacated by Mario Demarco, who is only interested in world chances.
(11-7-87)
▶**GENERAL MADARIAGA**—Mario Melo halted Angel Caro in the second, light heavyweights.
▶**GUADALUPE**—Julio Cesar Vazquez outpointed Jorge Tejada in 10, welterweights.

Nestor Paniaqua stopped Antonio Guzman in five, featherweights.
(11-12-87)
▶**ROSARIO**—Argentine light heavyweight champion Nestor Giovannini outclassed veteran Eduardo Contreras in 10.
(11-13-87)
▶**VILLA MERCEDES**—Marcelo Di Crocce won the Argentine welterweight title by outpointing Simon Escobar over 12 rounds.
(11-13-87)
▶**TARTAGAL**—Fidel Rivera outpointed Esteban Bustos in 10, lightweights.
(11-13-87)
▶**TRENQUE LAUQUEN**—Juan Astorga outpointed Carlos Marinangeli in 10, featherweights.
(11-13-87)
▶**COMODORO RIVADAVIA**—Welterweight prospect Jorge Fernando Castro outpointed middleweight Jorge Pino in 10.
(11-13-87)
▶**SALIA**—Explosive South American welterweight champion Miguel Angel "Puma" Arroyo returned to action to knock out middleweight Osvaldo Diaz in four.
(11-13-87)
▶**PRESIDENCIA ROQUE SAENZ PENA**—Juan Carlos Zalazar halted Jose Cufre in six, flyweights.
(11-20-87)

RICARDO F. SOLANA

BRAZIL

▶**SAO PAULO**—CMTC Clube—Jose "Rocky" da Silva stopped Mauro Cruz in the fifth round to become the new middleweight champion of Brazil.

Middleweight Balduino Silva won a six-round decision over Waldir de Jesus.

Middleweight Jose Becerra knocked out Rubens Correa in the second.
(11-11-87)
▶**SALVADOR**—Bahia—Undefeated middleweight Reginaldo Santos posted a 10-round decision victory over Argentinian Enrique Coronel.
(11-8-87)
▶**SAO PAULO**—CMTC Club—Clarismundo Silva regained the Brazilian light heavyweight championship with a five-round TKO of Barbosa Bonfim.

Lightweight Claudio Santos decisioned Ignacio Domingos over six.
(11-9-87)
▶**SAO PAULO**—CMTC Club—Brazilian welterweight champion Helio Santana won an eight-round decision over Argentina's Mario Mathisse.

Heavyweights Eduardo Santos and Carlos Bracelete fought to a six-round draw.
(11-15-87)
▶**SALVADOR**—Bahia—Jose "Rocky" da Silva retained his Brazilian middleweight championship with a 10-round decision over previously undefeated Reginaldo Santos.

Middleweight Mario Martiliano won a six-round decision over Gilvan Silva.
(11-28-87)
▶**SAO PAULO**—CMTC Club—Brazilian super flyweight champion Paulo Ribeiro retained his title though held to a 10-round draw by Wilson Goncalves.

Argentina bantamweight Carlos Mayorca won a six-round decision over Ronaldo Bacaroglo.
(11-29-87)

▶**BELEM**—Daugisio Ribeiro knocked out Roberto Santos in the third round of a bantamweight headliner.
(12-3-87)
▶**SALVADOR**—Claudemir Dias won a 10-round decision over Argentine flyweight Carlos Mayorca.
(12-15-87)
▶**BELEM**—Daugisio Ribeiro won a six-round decision over Valdevino Monteiro in a featherweight match.
(12-17-87)
▶**RIO DE JANEIRO**—Maracanasinho Gymnasium—Brazilian and South American heavyweight champion **Adilson Rodrigues** won a 10-round decision over veteran Spanish contender **Alfredo Evangelista.**

Undefeated Brazilian middleweight champion Jose "Rocky" da Silva knocked out Argentina's Juan Lopes in six rounds.

Unbeaten Brazilian bantamweight champ Joao Cardoso (de Oliveira) knocked out Argentina's Roberto Ledesma in three.

Francisco Mesquita took a decision over Isaias Monteiro in the four-round welterweight opener.
(12-20-87)

KALED CURI

COLOMBIA

▶**CARTAGENA**—De Indias Bullring—Colombian **Fidel Bassa** made his third successful defense of his WBA flyweight title with a 12-round decision over an elusive and underestimated Feliz Marti of the Dominican Republic.

Bassa, who weighed 111⅓ in pushing his record to 19-0-1 with 13 KOs, floored Marti in the first round with a right to the jaw, but the challenger was up when referee Bernie Soto's count reached eight. A third-round combination from the champion from El Reten cut the face of Marti, but the challenger remained competitive though dropped again in the seventh.

Soto consulted with the ringside physician concerning the cut on Marti, but the challenger was allowed to continue. Bassa dominated from long range, bombarding Marti with an assortment of jabs, hooks, uppercuts and rights that had the visitor too concerned with defense to inflict much damage. Though Marti blocked much of Bassa's offense, enough got through to keep Bassa comfortably in control.

Judge Carol Polis scored 119-106, Ed Levin saw it 120-108 and Luis Rivera called it 118-108, all for Bassa.

In the main support, billed for 10 rounds, Luis Mendoza, 120 2/5, Colombia, split decisioned Enrique Sanchez, 120 2/5, Dominican Republic.

Rafael Zuniga posted a unanimous 10-round decision win over Pedro Perez. Each weighed 123½.

Rafael Pineda, Colombia, demolished Panamanian Francisco "Rocky" Fernandez in the fourth of a scheduled 10. Each weighed 132 7/10.

Tomas Molinares was victorious when Eduardo "Chita" Ruiz of Panama abandoned the match in the fifth of a scheduled 10. Each weighed 150.

Attendance: 8,500 (est.).
(12-18-87)

▶**MONTERIA**—Ever Beleno, Cartagena, stopped Gustavo Zabala in the fourth of a featherweight bout.

Luis "Pupi" Lora, Monteria, knocked out Efrain Dominguez in the second of a welterweight match.

Ruben Dario Palacios captured the vacant Colombian featherweight title with a 10-round decision over Alvaro Bohorquez.

Monteria's Felipe Angulo stopped Pedro Perez in seven rounds.
(10-30-87)

▶**CARTAGENA**—Colombian featherweight Miguel Maturana gained a split decision over young Arcello Diaz in 10 rounds.

Rafael Meza saw the bout 99-96 for Diaz, but was overruled by Horacio Castilla and Raymundo Alcazar, who scored for Maturana, Castilla seeing it 97-96, while Alcazar carded 98-95.

Middleweight Adolfo Caballero iced Jose Morelos in the opening round.

Bantamweight Jose Melendez won by disqualification in the first round against Eudo Bermudez.

Colombian junior flyweight champion Uriel Londono won an eight-round decision over Arnold Velasquez in a non-title bout.

Bantamweight Omar Cantillo stopped Tobias Caraballo in four.
(11-6-87)

▶**SANTA MARTA**—Lightweight Ismaldi Pineda posted a five-round KO over Nelson Miranda of San Basilio de Palenque.

Welterweights Libardo Barrios and Saul Julio drew over eight rounds.

Flyweights Diosmel Anaya of Caracolicito was victorious when referee Carlos Hernandez stopped his match with Barranquilla's Edilberto Villarreal in the third.

In the opening six-rounder, Santa Marta's Genaro Manjarres decisioned Barranquilla's Roger Guerrero.
(11-6-87)

▶**CARTAGENA**—De Indias Bullring—Colombian sensation **Francisco Tejedor,** 110, Barrranquilla, stopped Cartagena's Rafael Julio at 2:05 of the 10th and final round.

Tejedor was down in the second round.

Barranquilla's Mario Miranda unanimously outpointed Felipe Angulo over 10 rounds. Each weighed 131.

Miguel Maturana TKO'd San Onofro's Daniel Blanco in the fifth of a featherweight battle.

Rafael Pineda retained the Colombian junior welterweight title when he knocked out Andres Ramos in three rounds.

Featherweights Wilson Fontalvo, Arenal, and Robinson Garcia drew in four.

Middleweight Adolfo Caballero KO'd Abel Alarcon in seven.

Promoter: Ricardo Jimenez
(12-5-87)

LUIS A. GONZALEZ V.

GUYANA

▶**BERBICE**—Albion Sports Complex—After an absence of over 30 years, professional boxing returned to the "ancient county" of Berbice with a four-bout card promoted by first-timers A&G Promotions.

Though attendance was poor (approximately 400), the crowd was treated to some rich entertainment and the organizers should be complimented for the well-arranged program.

Before the fights began, fans were treated to some slick sleight-of-hand tricks by popular magician "Professor" Alladin followed by Christina, a popular East Indian belly dancer who thrilled the small audience with her provocative gyrations.

Of the four contests, two were scheduled for 10 rounds each, and both were close. Lancelot Cyrus, 139, and Conrade Hunte, 130, took the first 10 to the limit, finishing in a stalemate. Judge Frank Fernandes saw Cyrus a 97-95 winner, but Ulric Busby favored Hunte, 97-94. Eion Jardine failed to settle the matter, scoring 96-96.

The second 10 saw David Briggs even the score with Fitzroy Davidson, winning a majority verdict. Fernandes and Andrew Thorne had Briggs winning 99-93 and 99-94, respectively, but Busby saw it 96-96. Each weighed 130.

Gary Richardson, 14 pounds heavier than 116-pound Winston Goodrich, scored a unanimous eight-round decision over his smaller foe.

A scheduled six ended at 2:20 of Round Three when Joey Murray, 120, belted out Wayne Coates, 116.

Promoter: A&G Promotions.

Referees: Bertrand Adams, Fernandes & Jardine.
(12-19-87)

WILL R. BOODHOO

PERU

▶**LIMA**—Latin American featherweight champion Ernesto Quintana outpointed veteran Argentine Hipolito Nunez in 10.
(11-6-87)

RICARDO F. SOLANA

URUGUAY

▶**MONTEVIDEO**—Rodrino Benech knocked out Argentine Alberto Barragan in one, heavyweights.

Argentine featherweight champion Miguel Francia outpointed countrymate Ruben Astorga in 10.
(10-9-87)

▶**PAYSANDU**—Juan Barrero outpointed Argentine Anibal Romero in 10, light heavyweights.
(11-6-87)

RICARDO F. SOLANA

EUROPE

1987 REVIEW

▶Great Britain has lost its grip in Europe, and the fistic scene has now been taken over by Italy.

Early last year Britain had seldom had it so good with over 600 professional bouts and more promotions than ever. The Brits were the proud owners of three world titles and, at one time, seven of the European crowns. Then the rot set in and the champions toppled like nine pins at the local bowling alley. At press time Britain had no world titleholders and only three fighters ruling Europe, cruiserweight Sammy Reeson, light heavy Tom Collins and flyweight **Duke McKenzie**.

Chris Pyatt lost his light middle crown to Italian **Gianfranco Rosi** and Herol Graham left his middle title with Italian **Sumbu Kalambay**. Featherweight champion Jimmy McDonnell vacated, welter **Lloyd Honeyghan** and heavy **Frank Bruno** relinquished for world title shots. And **Terry Marsh** forfeited his light welter laurels for not defending on time.

At the world level **Dennis Andries**, holder of the WBC light heavy crown, and Honeyghan, world welterweight champion, were dethroned, while Marsh vacated his IBF light welter crown on retirement.

In the Commonwealth field Britain is still very strong, holding five titles with heavyweight Horace Notice, cruiserweight Glenn McCrory, middleweight **Tony Sibson**, light welter Tony Laing and lightweight Mo Hussein.

Though Great Britain is still in a strong position, the score certainly is in favor of Italy at the moment. With its smaller squad of professional boxers, Italy produced in 1987 two world titleholders, WBA middleweight kingpin Kalambay and WBC light middleweight titleholder Rosi, four WBC "junior" champions, heavyweight **Francesco Damiani**, light heavyweight Noe Cruciani, light middle Giovanni De Marco and featherweight Salvatore Bottiglieri, with two others ruling Europe, heavyweight Damiani and junior lightweight Salvatore Curcetti. Italy had a third world titleholder in light welter **Patrizio Oliva** until he was surprisingly KO'd in three rounds by **Juan Martin Coggi** and then retired.

The French, with a squad of some 200 boxers, have two European titleholders, middleweight Pierre Joly and light welter Tek N'Kalankete, and Switzerland and Denmark are in possession of one each, welterweight Mauro Martelli representing Switzerland with lightweight Gert Bo Jacobsen carrying Denmark's banner. Jacobsen is the longest reigning champion having won his title in January 1986 and has also added a WBC "junior" title to his collection.

The European light middle, feather and bantamweight titles are vacant at present.

There were 28 European championship fights during 1987, five more than the previous year, and titles changed hands frequently. Only two who reigned at the close of 1986, flyweight McKenzie, who did not defend, and lightweight Jacobsen still rule Europe today.

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B-A ENTERPRISES

At heavyweight Spaniard **Alfredo Evangelista** won back his crown after a gap of almost eight years, beating Andre van den Oetelaar of Holland for the title forfeited by Norway's Steffan Tangstad. But Evangelista reigned only 79 days before being stopped in seven rounds by Sweden's **Anders Ecklund**. The Swede, who previously reigned in 1985 before losing his crown to Bruno, did not rule long, being dethroned by Damiani. Since **Primo Carnera** lost his title to **Max Baer** in 1934 only one Italian, Lorenzo Zanon, has fought for the world heavyweight crown. Zanon was stopped by **Larry Holmes** in 1980, but Damiani hopes to do better.

The cruiserweight class was recognized by the EBU and the 28-year-old Reeson outscored 34-year-old German Manfred Jassmann to become the first champion at this weight. Reeson has since established himself as a genuine champion, successfully defending against Luigi Ricci from Belgium.

There appeared no end to the reign of light heavyweight Alex Blanchard, the Dutchman who won the crown in 1984 by beating Frenchman Richard Caramanolis. But after defenses against Jassmann, Caramanolis, Andries, Ralf Rocchigiani of Germany and the Swiss-Italian Enrico Scacchia, Blanchard was caught cold when he met Britain's Tom Collins, who took him out in two rounds to provide one of the major upsets of the year. Blanchard had already outscored Collins in a non-title bout earlier in the year and no doubt accepted this return confident of holding onto his crown while collecting a generous purse.

Graham lost his middleweight title to Kalambay, with everything going wrong for the Brit in Round 12 when a vicious right to the head forced him to take a standing count. In the closing round, Graham's eyes were swollen and he was bleeding from the nose. All officials scored for Kalambay, 116-114, 116-115, and 116-113. Kalambay vacated after winning the vacant WBA crown in a bout with **Iran Barkley**. In the meantime, Joly took over the European crown, outscoring Spaniard Miguel Suarez over 12 rounds.

Chris Pyatt, another Brit, was dethroned, losing his light middle title to Rosi, who defended against Spaniard Emile Sole and Frenchman Marc Ruocco. Ruocco had no real chance against the 30-year-old Italian and lost his temper after he began bleeding badly from a cut cheek. He tried to butt the champion, then landed a left hook to the back of Rosi's neck, which drew an immediate disqualification from Spanish referee Fernando Pavedes. Rosi then won the WBC "junior" title and vacated the European crown.

The welterweight title changed hands a couple of times. The Spanish-born naturalized German Jose Varela lost his crown to Spaniard Alfonso Redondo, who handed the crown over to Martelli on a split vote just 83 days later. Martelli defended against German Erwin Heiber and again won by split decision, then made his record 30-0 with a decision over 31-year-old French southpaw Jean Marie Touati.

N'Kalankete won Marsh's forfeited light welter title, stopping Briton Tony Laing in nine rounds and has defended against Italy's Alessandro Scapecchi and Mohammed Kawoya, an African who lives in Denmark but holds an Austrian license.

Jacobsen won the European lightweight crown with a cut stoppage of Germany's Rene Weller and has been a busy champion, defending against Italy's Alfredo Raininger, Belgium's Fernand Blanco, Spain's Jose Hernando, France's Alain Simoes and Italian Claudio Nitti.

Super featherweight champion Jean Marc Renard of Belgium defended against Italy's Antonio Renzo and fractured his right hand, which necessitated a two-month rest period. Renard finally decided to vacate, moving down to featherweight, and Curcetti took over the crown, stopping Frenchman Daniel Londas in the first round. This was another of several major upsets during the year, and the partisan crowd of 3,000 displayed its disagreement with what it considered a premature stoppage. Londas was having his fourth attempt at a European title, having already lost to Spain's Robert Castano in 1982 and Weller in 1984, plus fighting a draw with Renard in 1986. The 27-year-old Curcetti recently lost a WBA title bout to South African **Brian Mitchell**, being stopped in the ninth round.

Louis Gomis, a 24-year-old Frenchman, dethroned fellow countryman Antoine Montero to win the bantamweight title, successfully defended against Spain's Vincente Fernandez and Italy's Maurizio Lupino, then vacated.

Nati won McDonnell's vacated featherweight title, stopping Frenchman Marc Amand in two rounds. His defense against Italy's Vincenzo Limarola ended with the Italian being disqualified in Round Seven for landing after the bell. Until the incident, it had been a tough battle.

McKenzie rules the flyweights, having won the title from Charlie Magri in 1986. He made one defense that year, beating Italian Piero Pinna.

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BELGIUM

▶**IZEGEM**—Jean Marc Renard stopped Paul Huggins in the eighth round of a featherweight matchup when the corner of Huggins threw in the towel.

Middleweight Filip Tampere scored a six-round decision win over Fabian Chapette.

Middleweights Filip Houthoold and Ronald De Vulder drew in six.

Welterweight Patrick Vungbo knocked out Eric Ciriak in five.

Welterweight Freddy De Meulenaere decisioned Yvon Tatula over six.
(12-25-87)

FRANCE

▶**PARIS**—Bantamweight Mehdi Labdouni stopped Bruno Jobert in five rounds.

Lofti Belkhir decisioned Amar Dahmoun in a six-round welterweight match.
(11-30-87)

▶**SAINT QUEN**—Light heavyweight Jean Marc Dindin decisioned Paul Walyns in six.
(11-30-87)

▶**ROUEN**—Lightweight Philippe Binante knocked out Belaid Khaldi in five.

Light heavyweight Serge Bolivar posted a three-round KO over Djamel Chabana.
(11-30-87)

▶**STRASBOURG**—Welterweight Madjib Madjoub decisioned Rodolphe Lavouiray over eight.
(12-4-87)

▶**COMPIEGE**—Featherweight Farid Benredjeb won an eight-round decision over Guy Bellehigue.
(12-4-87)

▶**NOEUX LES MINES**—Lightweight Camel Touati decisioned Marc Amand over eight.
(12-4-87)

▶**JOINVILLE LE POINT**—Middleweight Pascal Leplat won a six-round decision over Claude Places.
(12-4-87)

▶**HYERES**—Middleweight Jean Claude Fontana knocked out Franck Laviso in two.
(12-4-87)

▶**SAINT DIZIER**—Heavyweight Jean Chanet won a six-round TKO over Giovanni Marchesini when Marchesini was unable to continue due to cuts.
(12-4-87)

▶**BIARRITZ**—Welterweight Joel Dulys won a six-round decision over Thierry Warda.
(12-5-87)

▶**CALAIS**—Featherweight Herve Jacob took an eight-round decision from Ricardo Lawlor.

Bruno Jacob won an eight-round lightweight decision over Russell Jones. Jones is the Welsh super featherweight champ, while Jacob, the older brother of Herve, is a former French featherweight titleholder.
(12-5-87)

▶**GAILLARD**—Light heavyweight Enrico Scacchia decisioned Tony Burke over 10.

Both Scacchia and Burke were coming off losses, Scacchia, of Switzerland, having been stopped in eight rounds by Holland's Alex Blanchard for the European light heavyweight crown, while Burke had been knocked out in two rounds by Pierre Frank Winterstein and in three rounds by Johnny Melfah.

Burke did manage to hurt Scacchia in the fourth, scoring well with his right, but he couldn't put Scacchia down.

Middleweight Rene Jacquot stopped Miodgrad Perunovic in six.
(12-5-87)

▶**HUSSIGNY**—Middleweight Kitenge Wa Kitenge took a six-round win over Carlos Tavares.
(12-5-87)

▶**SAINT DIZIER**—Heavyweight Jean Chanet won in the sixth round when Gianni Marchesini was cut and unable to continue.
(12-5-87)

▶**COMBOURG**—Middleweight Jean Pierre Mauny decisioned Alphonse Mathoubela over eight rounds.

In another middleweight eight Andre Mongelema decisioned Kiyame Awuitoh.
(12-11-87)

▶**DIJON**—Samuel Meck decisioned Vicente Macias in an eight-round lightweight bout.
(12-11-87)

▶**CAYENNE**—Light heavies Serge Mouvard and Olivier Kemayou drew over eight.
(12-11-87)

▶**CHATEAU THIERRY**—Welterweights Rene Pate and Antonio Secci drew in six.
(12-12-87)

▶**GUADALUPE**—Pierre Joly won a 12-round decision over Miguel Angel Suarez for the European middleweight championship.
(12-18-87)

▶**PARIS**—WBC lightweight champion **Jose Luis Ramirez** engaged in a non-title bout scheduled for 10 rounds, winning at 2:24 of the fourth when the corner of John Rafuse, Massachusetts, tossed in the towel.

The southpaw Ramirez dropped Rafuse twice in the fourth.

Pernell Whitaker, tuning up for his upcoming title match with Ramirez, stopped Davey Montana in the fourth.

Winning his 15th straight, Whitaker had little opposition from Montana, who remained on his feet but took a standing eight count just prior to the bout's conclusion, which came with 46 seconds remaining in the fatal session.

Jean-Baptiste Mendy stopped Chris Silva in the fourth round of a lightweight match.

Bantamweight Louis Gomis stopped Luis Ramos in six.

Lightweight Raymond Armand decisioned Kamel Djadda over eight.

Middleweight Jean Noel Camara stopped Olivier Gervais in two.

Light heavyweight Serge Bolivard stopped Norbert Exassi in four.

Eric Dindaine won a four-round decision over Selahoui, middleweights.

Lightweight Christian Merle took a six-round decision over Areski Bekir.
(12-19-87)

▶**PARIS**—Middleweight Chris Tiozzo knocked out Carlos Tite in the third round.

Tiozzo, former Olympic bronze medalist, dropped Tite at the close of the second round with a right hand, then put him down for good in the third for the 11th KO in his 16-0 record.

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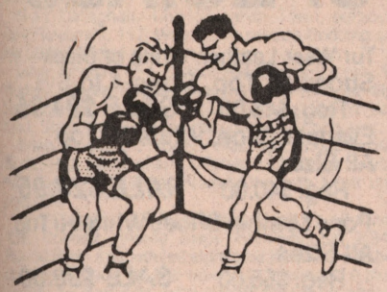

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Lightweight David Thio won an eight-round verdict from Jean Di Bateza.

Franck Judes stopped Claude Places in five, middleweights.

Welterweight Aaron Davis won in the fifth round when the corner of Boubekeur Cherif threw in the towel.
(12-21-87)

▶**NOTES:** Louis Gomis, the European bantamweight champion from Senegal, but now a citizen of France, was forced into retirement by a cataract in his right eye just as he was about to challenge **Kelvin Seabrooks** for the latter's IBF championship. Gomis won the European crown with a 12-round decision over France's Antoine Montero last May and retires with a record of 24-0-1, the draw coming against Steve McCrory.

GERMANY

▶In 1987, German boxing appeared to have made a move in the right direction, and the year certainly ended on a high note in December when **Graciano** and **Ralf Rocchigiani** became world-class.

The 23-year-old Graciano KO'd **Mustapha Hamsho** in 62 seconds and remained undefeated in 24 starts, while Ralf outscored Chisanda Mutti to bring his score to 26 starts with two defeats and three draws.

They are the "stars" for 1988 and will carry a great deal of responsibility on their broad shoulders when they step into the ring again. The southpaw Graciano has been promised a bout with WBA super middleweight champion **Chong-Pal Park** of Korea, and the 24-year-old Ralf will be campaigning for European honors.

Jose Varela, a Spanish-born naturalized German, did not take his job seriously enough and suffered his first defeat in 25 bouts, being stopped by Spaniard Alfonso Redondo. In the process, Varela lost his European welterweight title. But Varela came back with knockouts over Dutchman John van Elteren and American Hardy Jones and appears set to rule Europe again later this year.

Rene Weller is at the tail end of his career but would like a return with Gert Bo Jacobsen, the only man to beat him in 48 starts. Weller lost his European lightweight crown to Jacobsen on cuts and would like to avenge the loss, then retire.

The heavyweight picture is bleak. Manfred Jassmann, 34 years old, holds the German heavyweight title, which 25-year-old Thomas Classen vacated in 1986 after being stopped in his 19th bout by Britain's Al Malcolm. Classen has decided to return to action, winning his first bout back in December. Roland Runge, a 23-year-old who boxed in Australia using the name Rudy Darno, was undefeated in 17 starts with one draw, but made a mess of his home debut, being stopped by Frenchman Jean Clanet in six rounds in February of 1987. Runge, born to German parents in Sydney, Australia, was home for the first time in 19 years and looked every bit a champion until he ran into the Frenchman's right hand. Other heavies are southpaw Robert Mayer, who made his debut last year and has three wins to date, and Karl Heinz Heistermann, who closed the year with four victories.

Germany's best prospect in 1986, 19-year-old **Young Patrick Pippa,** posted four good wins last year and 19-year-old Knut Blin, son of Jurgen Blin, who lost a non-title bout to **Muhammad Ali,** but ruled Europe in 1972, made his debut at light heavy and is 3-0.

Erwin Heiber, who has had 31 wars over 10 years with only four defeats, deserves a return with European welterweight champion Mauro Martelli, but the Swiss-Italian might prefer to keep the German waiting after their tough and close bout last year. At 31, Heiber does not have time on his side, but he will no doubt get some good paydays this year against top foreigners.

Three local based foreign fighters, light heavy Nelson Alves, heavyweight Mario Guedes and middleweight Salvador Yanez, continued to give the sport here a much-needed shot in the arm. Alves was born to parents from Brazil, Guedes to Portugese parents in Rio de Janeiro in 1958 and the undefeated Yanez from Chile has been based in Germany for eight years. Once they become naturalized Germans they will be a threat to the domestic champion in their respective weight. All were unbeaten last year, Alves in six bouts, Yanez in five, Guedes in three. Michael Simuwelu, a 24-year-old from Zambia who had 14 wins in 1986, won and drew on German programs last year, and Peter Konjegwackie, Los Angeles silver medalist, was unbeaten in six German starts in 1987.

During the year there were 16 promotions viewed by 22,012, four shows and 16,871 patrons more than in 1986. There were 95 fights on German soil, with 42 going the distance, 43 ending early, eight finishing even, one ending in disqualification and one being declared no contest.

There were 11 domestic title fights during 1987. At the close of the year the reigning champions were Jassmann, heavyweight, Ralf Rocchigiani, cruiserweight, Graciano Rocchigiani, light heavyweight, Andreas Prox, middleweight, Heiber, light middleweight, Varela, welterweight, Kenny Mittermeier, light welter, Weller, lightweight, and Theo Hauser, super featherweight.

▶**HELMSTEDT**—Burgerhaus—A small show at this east-west border town was a sellout for promoter Helmut Schuster, drawing a crowd of 450.

Heavyweight Herbert Wagner knocked out fellow-German Peter Rutz in the fourth round.

Tanzania heavyweight Bozon Haule stopped Germany's oldest active boxer, Klaus Hein, the towel being thrown in during Round Three.

Heavyweight Hans Gimborn decisioned Francois Saffron over four rounds. Saffron took a couple of counts from blows to the body.

In a tremendously hard-fought battle, the German-based Turk Yurder Demircan stopped Britain's Horace Fleary, also locally based, in four frames. Werner Papke, one of Germany's most successful trainers, worked Demircan's corner.

Local matador Andreas Schweiger stopped Ibrahim Jusufi of Yugoslavia with hard blows to the body in Round Two of a heavyweight bout.

Referees: Helmut Bertram & Werner Kasimir.
(1-9-88)

JACK TREE

ITALY

▶**SAN GIUSEPPE VESUVIANO**—Featherweight Ciro De Leva won an eight-round decision over Ley Umba Sengy.

Giovanni De Marco scored an eight-round decision over Raul Abeldano for the WBC international junior middleweight title.

Lightweights Alfredo Raininger and Luigi La Grasta drew over eight.

Welterweight **Nino La Rocca** knocked out Abdelhafid Arik in one round.

Middleweight Giuseppe Cali decisioned Abderrahim Laachira in six.
(12-2-87)

▶**FERRERA**—Salvatore Nardino, 139, stopped Allessandro Scapecchi, 140, in seven rounds for the Italian junior welterweight championship.

Light heavyweight Massimiliano Duran decisioned Ndomingiedi Lusikina over six.

Welterweight Alessandro Duran knocked out Mohamed Touati in five.
(12-3-87)

▶**PLACENZA**—Giuseppe Mercuri knocked out Antonio Boccuni in the third round of a welterweight bout.
(12-4-87)

▶**GUGIANESI**—Middleweight Benito Guida decisioned Roberto Rosini over six.
(12-4-87)

▶**BAZZANO**—Heavyweight Antonio Manfredini knocked out Ahmed Laghali in two.

Middleweight Roberto Gigli decisioned Stroh over six.

Welterweight Pietro Lusardi knocked out Jean Michel Forestier in the first.
(12-5-87)

▶**PADONA**—Alberto Castellacci decisioned Sid Conteh over six, middleweights.

Another middleweight six saw Antonio Giaciglio and Santo Colombo draw.
(12-5-87)

▶**LIVORNO**—Julian Solis, 126½, was disqualified for fouling in the sixth round of his bout with **Maurizio Stecca,** 125.

Solis, a former WBA bantamweight champion, butted Stecca in the opening session, then was warned for a low blow in the second round.

Though holding his own with the 1984 Olympic bantamweight gold medalist who is now unbeaten in 29 fights, Solis resorted to hitting on the break and more butting in the sixth, finally drawing the disqualification.

James Salerno, 186, TKO'd Andre Van Den Oetelaar, 225, in four.

Kamel Bou-Ali, 134¼, knocked out Gilberto Maldonado, 139¾, in the third.

Stefano Cassi, 135½, won a six-round decision over

Yvon Tatula, 137½.

Gianni Di Napoli, 128, knocked out Nicholas Wagner, 130, in one.

Roberto Lauretta, 136½, knocked out Fathi Kaabi, 136½, in the first.

Umberto Guerrini, 130½, won a four-round decision over Cecilio Ramirez, 128½.
(12-11-87)

▶**VERBANIA**—Featherweight Michele La Fratta decisioned Louis Machucha over six.
(12-12-87)

▶**SENIGALLIA**—Loris Ragnetti won a six-round nod over Fathi Tovati, bantams.

Welterweight Antonio Marino knocked out Mwembo Kitenge in four.
(12-12-87)

▶**PALERMO**—Giampiero Pinna scored a 12-round decision win over Nicola Cirelli for the Italian flyweight championship.

Lightweight Piero Morello decisioned Julio Garcia over eight.

Giuseppe Leto, 156½, decisioned Abdelevahed Saidi, 152¼, over six.

Lightweight Francesco Mascaro stopped Ayari Taher in the fourth round on cuts.

Middleweight Pietro Miloni knocked out Bechir Kaadi in one.
(12-16-87)

▶**SPOLETO**—Light heavyweight Noe Cruciani decisioned John Helde in eight.
(12-18-87)

▶**CAPO D'ORLANDO**—South Africa's **Brian Mitchell,** 139¾, defended his WBA junior lightweight title when Salvatore Curcetti, 139½, retired with an eye injury after eight rounds.

Mitchell was well in front when Venezuelan referee Enzo Motero stopped the bout. The challenger was cut in the second round, claiming the damage was the result of a Mitchell butt.

Mitchell scored two knockdowns, the first in the seventh round when a combination push/punch sent Curcetti to the canvas. The eighth-round knockdown was the result of a solid body shot by Mitchell.

At the conclusion, Curcetti's face was cut and swollen.

Lightweight Alain Bamba Leon decisioned Keith Ross, in six.

Lightweights Freddie Cruz and Nika Khumalo drew in eight.

Nino La Rocca knocked out Brahim Messaoudi in three, welterweights.

Light heavyweight Alfredo Cacciatori decisioned Kamunga Mabobo in eight.
(12-19-87)

▶**RAVENNA**—Angelo Sassu was declared winner in the third round of a lightweight match with Haidar Nourredine, who was disqualified for fouling.

Lightweight Roberto Lauretta decisioned Fernando Blanco over six.

Welterweight Luigi Perazzi scored a six-round decision win over Bruno Simili.

Middleweight Camerani won by decision in six over Tonino Inino Wa Bolamba.
(12-26-87)

▶**FERRARA**—Alessandro Duran, 147¼, decisioned Abderrahim Laachira, 150½, over eight.

Jose Luis Limpio, 140¾, stopped Mokhtar Fridar, 140½, in four.
(12-26-87)

▶**PLACENZA**—Za Dindia Mbeke won in the fifth round when Pietro Lusardi, 150, was unable to continue.
(12-26-87)

SPAIN

▶**MADRID**—Former European welterweight champion Alfonso Redondo appeared fortunate to come away with a draw in his eight-rounder with English middleweight Michael Harris.

Redondo suffered a cut eye in the first round, and Harris pummeled him on the ropes over the final two frames.

On the undercard, former WBC flyweight champion **Prudencio Cardona** suffered a controversial defeat four days before his 36th birthday when he was disqualified in the second round against Spain's Agapito Gomez.

Cardona floored Gomez on the break to get the heave-ho.

An eight-rounder saw former WBA super featherweight champ **Alfredo Layne** lose by decision to Spain's Carlos Sole, a 20-year-old prospect.
(12-18-87)

SWITZERLAND

▶**BERNE**—Middleweight Enrico Scacchia won a 10-round decision over Carlton Warreb.
(12-26-87)

▶**MARTIGNY**—Mauro Martelli, 146½, decisioned Jean Marie Touati, 145½, over 12 rounds in a match for the European welterweight championship.

Martelli, an Italian based in Switzerland, had little difficulty retaining his crown against the southpaw French titleholder, winning 118-112 on the card of referee Sid Nathan and 118-115 and 118-113 on the cards of judges Kurt Stroer and Knud Jensen, respectively.

Antoine Fernandez, 149¼, knocked out Donald Gwinn, 148¾, in three.

Paul Muyodi, 169¾, knocked out Moussa Mukandjo, 166½, in five.

John Kichenin, 137¾, won by foul over Rosario Casartelli, 141, in the fourth.

Benito Guida, 156, drew with Bernard Bonzon, 159¾, over six.
(12-27-87)

UNITED KINGDOM

▶**WEMBLEY**—Grand Hall—Unbeaten **Horace Notice**, 207, Birmingham, kept his Commonwealth heavyweight title by stopping Australian champion Dean Waters, 210½, referee Mickey Vann intervening at 1:45 of Round Four in a scheduled 12 with Waters under pressure. Notice had been on top from the start, and when he stepped up the pace it was all too much for Waters.

Mexican Juan Alonso Villa, 149, stopped David Dent, 146½, Camden Town, referee Paddy Sower calling a halt at 1:39 of Round Five in a scheduled eight. Dent had been on top up to that stage when he was caught with a right hand. He rose at four, but was then caught with further blows and was under pressure when the intervention came. Dent protested he was fit enough to continue.

However, Dent's protest was nothing compared to that of Bobby Frankham, 176¾, whose contest with Billy Sims, 174, Hackney, was stopped in Sims' favor after just 2:25 of Round One.

Frankham had been down twice, each time briefly, but on the second occasion walked to a neutral corner, and referee Ritchie Davies indicated that it was all over.

This brought forth a disgraceful display of bad temper by Frankham, who appeared to go berserk as he hit out at the referee and his opponent. He could not be restrained for some minutes, and the referee was escorted from the ring by policemen.

There were several scuffles involving Frankham supporters, and the whole thing did much harm to the image of the sport, where this sort of bad behavior is rare.

Frankham subsequently appeared before the stewards of the British Boxing Board of Control, and after they heard his case he was banned from boxing "indefinitely." Frankham says he intends to pursue his career in the United States.

Duke McKenzie, European flyweight champion, 112¾, outpointed former WBA champion Juan Herrera, 114, Mexico, referee Vann scoring it 98½-97½ after 10. McKenzie was always in command.

Gary Cooper, 155, Lymington, outpointed Belgian Gaston Cool, 155, referee Sower casting it 79-77½ after eight.

Rod Douglas, 156, Stepney, stopped Central Area middleweight champion Ian Bayliss, 158½, Preston, referee Ritchie Davies intervening at 2:42 of Round One in a scheduled six after Bayliss had been floored by a right cross.

Jimmy Peters, 176, Southampton, stopped Cliff Curtis, 172, Swindon, referee Sower intervening after Curtis had been down twice. Time, 1:10 of Round Two.

Brian Nickels, 129, Kilburn, outpointed Robert Smyth, 138¾, Wales, referee Sower casting it 60-57, indicating that Nickels had won all six rounds.
(12-2-87)

▶**LONDON**—Royal Albert Hall—**Nigel Benn**, 164, kayoed American Reggie Miller, 166, at 1:06 of Round Seven, a good performance against a good opponent

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in a good fight.

Like Benn, George Collins, 149½, maintained his unbeaten record by stopping Western Area champion Frankie Lake, 149, Plymouth, referee Jim Pridding intervening at 1:23 of Round One after Lake had been down three times.

Rory Callaghan, 149½, Kentish Town, outpointed Roy Rowlands, 147, West Ham, referee Pridding scoring 59½-58 after six.

Gary Stretch, 154, outpointed Denys Cronin, 162, Wales, referee Pridding casting it 79-78 after eight. Handicapped by a hand injury and inactive for some time, Stretch did well to concede weight and win.

Brian Robinson, 156½, Hastings, stopped Keith Scott, 160, Birmingham, referee Jack Snipe calling a halt after only 1:32 of Round One with Scott under pressure.

Paul Huggins, 131, Hastings, stopped Paul Kennedy, 136, Consett, referee Snipe intervening at 2:34 of Round Six in a scheduled eight after Kennedy had been down in Round Two and was under pressure. A plucky display by Kennedy, who fought back well after the early knockdown. Huggins was cut by the left eye in Round Three.

(12-2-87)

▶**MANCHESTER**—Anglo American Sporting Club—Gerry Richards, 157, Sheffield, avenged a previous defeat by stopping Ian Jackson, 159, Lancaster, referee Harry Warner intervening at 1:02 of Round Two after Jackson had been down.

Pat Durkin, 151, stopped Mike Snagg, 149, referee Keith Garner calling a halt at 0:25 of the sixth and final round with Snagg under pressure.

Another bout that ended in the sixth and final round saw Darren Parker, 156, Leicester, beat Paul Burton, 156, Sheffield, referee Garner stopping it at 0:50 of the round when Burton was cut by the right eye.

Graham O'Malley, 126, Middlesborough, stopped Paul Shedzoy, 130, Sheffield, referee Warner intervening at 0:35 of Round Three in a scheduled six when Shedzoy went down from a left to the head.

(11-30-87)

▶**COTTINGHAM**—Willoughby Manor Hotel—Darryl Ritchie, 177, Rhyl, stopped Terry Gilbey, 179, referee Harry Warner intervening at 1:20 of Round Seven in a scheduled eight twos after Gilbey had been down twice. In a previous meeting, Ritchie won on points.

Tony Foster, 134, Hull, stopped Kevin McCoy, 130, Rhyl, referee Warner calling a halt at 1:10 of Round Four of a scheduled six twos after McCoy had been down.

Mark Kelly, 136, Doncaster, kept his unbeaten record by outpointing Darren Derby, 133, Bradford, referee Warner casting it 59½-58½ after six twos.

Michael Maw, 162, Sunderland, outpointed Dave Thomas, 162, referee Warner scoring it 59½-58½ after six twos. Thomas was making his debut.

(11-25-87)

▶**SUNDERLAND**—Crowntree Leisure Centre—Horace Notice, 209½, kept his British and Commonwealth heavyweight titles by knocking out Paul Lister, 207, Newcastle, who was counted out by referee Mickey Vann at 2:55 of Round Three in a scheduled 12.

Notice thus won the Lonsdale Belt outright, the first heavyweight to accomplish this feat since **Henry Cooper** some 20 years earlier.

Lister gave as good as he got until the end of Round Two when he was forced to cover up as Notice scored with a cluster of hooks from both hands. In Round Three, a left to the head put Lister down. He was up at nine, but Notice would not be denied and a right to the head put Lister down for eight.

Another right put Lister down for the third time. He took the count on his knees, but rose a second after it was completed.

Dave Garside, 215¾, Hartlepool, outpointed Midlands Area champion Al Malcolm, Birmingham, 216¾, over eight, referee Arnold Bryson scoring it 79-78½. Garside was down twice early, and Malcolm was floored at the end of Round Four.

Darren Hobson, 160, Leeds, outpointed Graeme Ahmed, 157, South Shields, referee Bryson casting it 59½-58½ after six.

David Maw, 145, Sunderland, outpointed Jeff Decker, North Shields, referee Gerald Watson scoring it 59½-58½ after six twos.

Mick Mason, 146½, Craghead, outpointed Paul King, 145, Newcastle, referee Watson casting it 59½-58½ after six twos.

Ronnie Green, Manchester, 142½, outpointed Dave Hindmarsh, 140¾, Newcastle, referee Watson's card showing a narrow 59-58½ after six twos. Green was down four times and Hindmarsh twice.

(11-3-87)

▶**GRAVESEND**—Woodville Halls—Johnny B. Good, 125¾, stopped Glen Dainty, 124¾, referee Roy Francis intervening at 0:32 of Round Seven in a scheduled 10 after Dainty had been down three times. It was an official eliminator for the Southern Area title.

Ian John-Lewis, 148, Gravesend, beat Nick Meloscia, 144, Gloucester, who was disqualified by referee Francis for "butting" at 1:02 of Round Five.

Chubby Martin, Islington, 133, outpointed Michael McDermott, 139, Coleraine, referee Tony Walker scoring it 59-58 after six twos. McDermott had a seven-hour journey, arriving only minutes before due to fight.

Theo Martin, 151, Hackney, stopped Steve Kiernan, 150, Coatbridge, 150, referee Walker calling a halt in Round Four of a scheduled six twos after Kiernan had been down twice.

Steve Aquilina, 159¾, Wolverhampton, outpointed debutant Dean Lake, 161½, referee Walker casting it 59-58½ after six twos.

Lee West, 138, Brixton, stopped debutant Dave (brother of Dean) Lake, 141, Herne Bay, referee Watson intervening at 1:53 of the sixth and final two-minute round.

(11-4-87)

▶**LONDON**—York Hall—In a final eliminator for the British heavyweight title, Hughroy Currie, 229½, Catford, outpointed Noel Quarless, 214½, Liverpool, referee Adrian Morgan scoring 117½-117 after 12.

Nigel Haddock, 129¾, Llanelli, beat John Maloney, 129, Barnet, referee Morgan stopping it at 0:49 of Round Four in a scheduled eight when Maloney was cut by the left eye.

Billy Sim, 175½, Hornchurch, stopped Andy Balfe, 178, Swindon, whose retirement was accepted by referee Nick White at the end of Round Five in a scheduled eight twos with a jaw injury. When they met previously, Sim won in three rounds.

Bobby Frankham, 178, Newmarket, outpointed Ricky Kerrick, 175, Stoke Newington, referee White scoring it 60-57½ after six, indicating that Frankham hadn't lost a round. Kerrick was a substitute.

John Dickson, 139, Larkhall, outpointed Mike Russell, 141½, Plymouth, referee White scoring it 60-57½ after six twos.

Sub Stan King, Forest Hill, outpointed Steve West, 154¾, referee White casting it 59-58½ after six.

(11-5-87)

▶**BIRMINGHAM**—Arden Sporting Club—Sub Rocky Lawlor, 126, Midlands bantam champion, stopped Nigel Senior, Nottingham, 128, referee John Keane intervening in Round Five of a scheduled eight after Senior had been down.

Debutant Davy Robb, 138, outpointed Steve Phillips, 138, Doncaster, referee Keane scoring it 59½-58 after six twos.

Frankie Lake, 141½, Western Area light welter champion, kayoed Eddie King, 140, Doncaster, at 0:38 of Round Three in a scheduled six twos with a right to the jaw. Referee, Terry O'Connor.

Ronnie Stephenson, 120, Doncaster, drew with Phil Lashley, 126, Birmingham, over four twos. Referee, O'Connor.

(11-9-87)

▶**GLASGOW**—Whitbread Sporting Club—Jim Moffat, 134, Kilmarnock, outpointed Doug Munro, 134, Glasgow, referee Arnold Bryson casting it 79½-77 after eight.

Joe Duffy, 122, Glasgow, outpointed Frank Lacken, 124, Liverpool, referee Billy Rafferty scoring it 59-58½ after six twos.

Debutant Sean Heron, 159, Edinburgh, didn't lose a round in outpointing Linton Scarlet, 154, Birmingham, referee Bryson scoring it 60-58½ after six twos.

Gordon Shaw, 117, Glasgow, outpointed John Hales, 117, Nottingham, referee Rafferty's card showing 59½-58 after six twos.

(11-9-87)

▶**COTTINGHAM**—Westfield Country Club—Lee Hartshorn, 156, Manchester, returned after two years inactivity to outpoint Dave Mowbray, 162, referee Ron Hackett, who handled all contests, scoring 60-58 after six twos, indicating that Hartshorn hadn't lost a round.

Dean Binch, 130½, Rotherham, outpointed Paul Chedgroy, Sheffield, 128½, scoreline 59½-57½ after six twos.

Gerald Richards, 154, Sheffield, beat Darren Parker, Leicester, 158, who was disqualified in Round Two of a scheduled six twos for "butting."

Darren Darby, 132, Barnsley, outpointed Tony Foster, 131, Hull, scoreline 59-58½ after six twos.

(11-3-87)

▶**WALES**—Savva's Night Club—Tom Collins, Leeds, 173, won the European light heavyweight title by knocking out Dutchman Alex Blanchard with a right hand at 1:52 of Round Two in a scheduled 12. Referee Bob Logist of Belgium.

For the 32-year-old Collins, it was the punch of a lifetime, and he is talking of a world title fight.

Tony Wilson, 173, Wolverhampton, stopped American Louis Coleman, 178, referee Roddy Evans intervening in Round Three of a scheduled eight with Coleman under pressure.

British cruiserweight champion Tee Jay, 190, Paddington, outpointed Abner Blackstock, Newport, 187, referee Wynford Jones scoring 79-77½ after eight. Blackstock had been inactive for nearly a year. This was a non-title fight.

Floyd Havard, 140½, Swansea, made it 13 in a row by outpointing American Cedric Powell, 133, over eight. Referee Wynford Jones.

Slugger O'Toole, 162½, Sheffield, outpointed Denys Cronin, 163½, Caerphilly, referee Evans scoring it 79-78 after eight.

(11-11-87)

▶**BATLEY**—Frontier Club—Marvin P. Gray, 137, Stanley, outpointed James Jiora, 138, Otley, referee Brian Hogg scoring it a narrow 78½-78. It was the previously unbeaten Jiora's first eight-rounder.

Peter Brown, 168, Bradford, didn't lose a round in outpointing Seamus Casey, Alfreton, 164½, referee Keith Garner casting it 80-76½ after eight.

Tony Connellan, 139, Rochdale, stopped sub Willie Wilson, 142, Nottingham, referee Brian Hogg intervening in Round Four of a scheduled six after Wilson had been down.

Ian Bulloch, 190, Bolsover, didn't lose a round in outpointing Gary Raylton, Burnopfield, referee Hogg scoring it 60-57½ after six.

David Binns, 145, Keighley, outpointed Paul Jones, 145, Sheffield, referee Keith Garner casting it 59-58 after six.

Gypsy Johnny Fury, 237, outpointed Paul Sheldon, 205, Alfreton, referee Garner's card showing 40-38 after four.

Ian Jackson, 160¾, Lancaster, outpointed Gerry Richards, 158, Sheffield, referee Garner scoring it 59½-58½ after six. Richards had injuries to both eyes.

(11-10-87)

▶**GLASGOW**—St. Andrews Sporting Club—Scottish lightweight champion Steve Boyle, 135¾, outpointed Mohammed Lovelock, 136, Manchester, referee Len Mullen casting it 79½-77½ after eight. The bout was marred by various infringements by both men, who incurred frequent warnings. In Round Five, there was a clash of heads. Boyle was cut by the left eye, and it then appeared that his knee caught Lovelock in the groin. The latter went down in pain, and referee Mullen stopped the action to help Lovelock to his corner, then instructed Boyle to go to his corner. After a brief "cooling-off" period, the fight recommenced. In the final round, Lovelock was down briefly from a left hook.

Over eight, Robert Harkin, 142, Renton, drew with Sugar Gibiliru, 142, Liverpool. Referee, Billy Rafferty.

In spite of a sprained wrist near the end, Mike McDermott, 140, Coleraine, outpointed Pat Durkin, 146, Southport, over four, referee Rafferty casting it 40-38 over four.

Gordon Shaw, 115, Glasgow, confirmed a previous win by outpointing John Hales, 116, Nottingham, referee Mullen casting it 60-57½ after six.

(11-16-87)

▶**LEICESTER**—Holiday Inn—Paul Burton, 159½, Chesterfield, outpointed Lee Hartshorn, 163½, Manchester, referee Paul Thomas (who officiated throughout) scoring it 59-58 after six twos.

Tony Heath, 125½, Loughborough, outpointed Des Gargano, 124¼, Manchester, scoreline 59½-58½ after six twos.

Mark Watts, 180, Leicester, narrowly outpointed Joe Frater, 176, Grimsby, scoreline 59-58½ after six twos.

Michael Justin, 145¾, won every round in outpointing Pat Durkin, 147, Southport, scoreline 40-38 after four twos.

(11-9-87)

▶**STAFFORD**—Coliseum—Dean Bramhald, 140, Doncaster, outpointed Ronnie Shinkwin, 140, Borehamwood, referee Paul Thomas (who officiated throughout) casting it 79½-78 after eight twos.

Kevin Thompson, 150, Dudley, kayoed Danny Shinkwin, 152, Borehamwood, in Round Four of a scheduled six twos.

Jimmy Vincent, 126, Birmingham, didn't lose a round in outpointing Mick Greenwood, 126, Leicester, scoreline 60-58 after six twos.

Another who didn't lose a round was Dave Croft, 136, Doncaster, who outpointed Tony Greenwood, 140, Leicester, by 60-58 after six twos.

(11-11-87)

▶**SOUTHAMPTON**—Guild Hall—Steve McCarthy, 164½, kept his unbeaten record by knocking out Paul Wesley, 164, Birmingham, in the eighth and final (two-min) round. Referee, Mike Jacobs.

Paul (brother of Steve) McCarthy, 161½, outpointed Newton Barnett, 161, Camberwell, referee Jacobs casting it 79½-77 after eight twos. Barnett was down in Round Seven.

Gary Finn, 167½, Paddington, outpointed Bobby Williams, 163½, referee Jacobs scoring it 59½-58 after six twos. Williams had been inactive for a year.

Stewart Fishermac, 129, Luton, stopped Nigel Lawrence, 128, Battersea, referee Jacobs intervening at 1:50 of Round One in a scheduled six twos after Lawrence had been down.
(11-16-87)

▶**LONDON**—Moat House International Hotel, Stratford—Kesem Clayton, 156, Coventry, outpointed Rocky Feliciello, 154, Rhyl, referee Jim Pridding scoring a narrow 79-78½ after eight.

Steve Phillips, Doncaster, drew with Peter Bowen, 142, over six. Referee, Pridding.

Robbie Bowen, 142, Wednesbury, kayoed debutant Mark Antony, 140, Doncaster, at 0:38 of Round Five in a scheduled six.

Tony Feliciello, brother of Rocky, Rhyl, drew with Paul Bowen, 136, Wednesbury, over six twos.
(11-16-87)

▶**SOLIHULL**—Midlands Sporting Club—Mike Durvan, 139½, outpointed former South African light welter champion Brett Taylor, 141, over eight, referee John Coyle scoring it 79-77½.

On the canvas three times, 32-year-old Dave Owens, Castleford, got up to outgame John Foreman, 177, Birmingham, referee Coyle intervening at 0:22 of Round Five after Foreman had been deposited through the ropes and onto the ring apron from a right hand.

Karl Taylor, 127½, Birmingham, stopped Colin Lynch, 127, Coventry, referee Larry Thompson intervening at 1:30 of Round Four in a scheduled eight twos after Lynch had been down.

Derek Amory, 125½, Birmingham, outpointed Carl Parry, 127½, Swansea, referee Thompson scoring it 79½-77½ after eight twos.

Antonio Fernandez, 155½, Birmingham, outpointed Tony White, 158½, Sheffield, referee Thompson casting it 59½-57½ after six twos.
(11-18-87)

▶**LONDON**—Anglo City Sporting Club, Holborn—Leigh Wicks, 154¾, Brighton, outpointed Lou Ayres, 155, Morden, referee Larry O'Connell scoring it 59½-58 after six twos.

Roy Williams, 119, Merthyr, kayoed Wally Jarvis, 117, Hertford, at 1:40 of Round Three in a scheduled six twos. Referee, O'Connell.

Stan King, 153, Bermondsey, outpointed debutant Mac Wallace, 154, Ealing, not losing a round on referee Paddy Sower's card of 60-57 after six twos.

In a clash of debutants, Mark Singh, 133½, stopped Malcolm Wilson, 133, Covent Garden, referee Sower calling a halt in Round Two of a scheduled six twos with Wilson under pressure.
(11-18-87)

▶**MANCHESTER**—Midland Hotel—Tony Ekubia, 143, Manchester, kayoed Scot Mike McKenzie, 143½, at 1:47 of Round Two after previously flooring him. Referee Mickey Vann.

Bobby McKenley, 148, stopped Jim Kelly, 149, Glasgow, referee Keith Garner intervening at 1:58 of the sixth and final round with Kelly under pressure.

John Green, 120½, Manchester, outpointed Nigel Crook, 120, Chorley, referee Garner casting it 59½-58 after six. Crook was down in Round Three.

John Reid, 142, Manchester, outpointed John Townsley, 141½, Kirkcaldy, referee Vann scoring it 59½-58½ after six.
(11-17-87)

▶**LONDON**—Latchmere Leisure Centre—Lloyd Christie, 139, retained his British light welterweight title and won the Lonsdale Belt outright by stopping Chris Blake at 2:46 of the opening round in a scheduled 12. Blake, 140, Croydon, was floored twice, the second time going through the ropes. He was upright at eight, but referee Mickey Vann decided he was in no condition to continue.

Geoff Sharp, 160, Maidenhead, stopped Winston Wray, 151, Blackfriars, referee Jack Snipe calling a halt at 1:15 of Round Four in a scheduled six twos after Wray had been down.

Abdul Kareem, 133, Walthamstown, won the Southern Area lightweight title by stopping Paul McKenzie, 134¾, Peckham, referee Mike Jacobs intervening at 2:28 of round eight in a scheduled 10 after McKenzie had been down three times.

Lee West, 137, Brixton, got up from a first-round knockdown to narrowly outpoint A.M. Milton, 133, Lambeth, referee Snipe casting it 59-58½ after six twos.

Tony Baker, 150, New Cross, outpointed Shane Traylen, 151, Aldershot, referee Snipe scoring 59½-58½ after six twos.

B.F. Williams, 138½, Watford, outpointed Ian Hosten, 133¼, referee Jacobs casting 59-58 after six twos.
(11-19-87)

▶**LONDON**—York Hall—Rod Douglas, 162, kayoed American A.H. Muhammad, 160, at 2:24 of Round One in a scheduled six. The American's name does not appear in any record book and he provided no opposition at all. He was down twice before the final punch, which was a right to the head.

Nigel Haddock, 131, Swansea, beat Richie Foster, 131½, Dublin, referee Snipe intervening in Round Seven when Foster was cut by the left eye. A great fight.

Errol McDonald, 146, Nottingham, kept his unbeaten record by beating Billy Cairns, 145¾, Glasgow, who retired at the end of Round Three of a scheduled eight twos with an injured right hand.

Eric Cardouza, 181, Daventry, stopped Ricky Kerrick, 175, West Ham, referee Snipe intervening as the bell ended Round Four in a scheduled six twos after Kerrick had been down.

Paul Burke, 138, narrowly outpointed Rudi Valentino, 136, Plumstead, referee Roy Francis scoring it 59-58½ after six twos.
(11-19-87)

▶**LONDON**—Ramada Inn, Fulham—**Kirkland Laing**, 147, kept his British welter title and won the Lonsdale Belt outright by stopping Rocky Kelly, 147, Fulham, referee Larry O'Connell intervening at 0:53 of Round Five in a scheduled 12 after Kelly had been down briefly and was cut under the left eye. Kelly had also been down briefly in Round Two.

Laing boxed well against a tough, brave opponent who had his moments before Laing raised his pace and brought over a right cross that put Kelly on the canvas. He was wobbly when he rose, and the referee stopped it.

Gary Jacobs, 145, the Scottish welter champ, outpointed Jeff Decker, 145, not losing a round on referee O'Connell's card of 80-77½ after eight.

Trevor Smith, 148½, Harlow, kayoed Seamus Casey, 152, Alfreton, at 1:58 of Round Four in a scheduled six. Casey had been down twice previously.

Scott Durham, 126½, Sheffield, kayoed Paul Thornton, 128½, Maidenhead, at 1:31 of Round One in a scheduled six twos. Thornton had been down previously.

Bertie James, 127½, Swansea, stopped Mick Chapman, 127, Pontypridd, referee Nick White intervening at 1:05 of Round Four after Chapman had been floored twice in Round One and was out by the left eye.
(11-26-87)

▶**WINDSOR**—Blazers Club—Sammy Reeson, 188, Battersea, successfully defended his European cruiserweight title by knocking out Belgian Luigi Ricci at 2:20 of Round Seven in a scheduled 12. A right hook put Ricci down. He was up at eight, held on to the top rope as he looked towards the spectators, the towel came in from his corner, but German referee Georg Grabbartz counted out Ricci on his feet.

Ricci was down in Round One and generally on the receiving end.

Puerto Rican **Jose Quinones**, 168¼, stopped Errol Christie, 161¼, Coventry, the referee intervening at 1:58 of Round Four after Christie had been down and was under pressure.

Tony Collins, 152, Yateley, won every round in outpointing Kevin Hayde, 149, Cardiff, referee Tony Walker casting it 40-38 after four twos.

Cornelius Carr, 156½, Middlesborough, stopped Dave Heaver, 158, Doncaster, referee Ritchie Davies intervening at 1:50 of Round Two with Heaver still upright but under pressure.

Tunisian Frank Loukil, 127, outpointed Shane Silvester, West Bromwich, referee Walker scoring it 59½-58 after six twos.

Mark Howell, 153½, Nottingham, gained his third victory over Kesem Clayton, 154, Coventry, referee Walker casting it 59½-57½ after six.
(11-28-87)

▶**GLASGOW**—Bellahouston Sports Centre—Donny Hood, 117¾, won the Scottish bantamweight title by outpointing Brian Holmes, 117, referee Billy Rafferty scoring it a narrow 98½-98 after 10.

John Hyland, 119, Liverpool, beat Bobby McDermott, 115, Glasgow, who retired with an injured left eye in Round Two of a scheduled eight. Ref, Rafferty.

Adam Muir, 145½, Greenock, outpointed Willy Docherty, 147, Twechar, referee Len Mullen casting it 59½-58½ after six twos.

Wull Strike, 120, Irvine, outpointed Frank Lacken, 121½, Liverpool, referee John Coyle casting it 59-58 after six.

Danny Lee, 126, Greenock, drew with Craig Windsor, 129, Blantyre, over six. Referee, Rafferty.
(11-25-87)

▶**PETERBOROUGH**—Moat House Hotel—Steve Tollard, 129, Hull, drew with Gary LeRoux, 126, Peterborough, over eight. Referee, Dave Parris.

Eddie Collins, 156, Peterborough, outpointed Andy Catesby, 153, Bournemouth, not losing a round on referee John Krane's card of 60-57½ after six twos.

Tony Lawrence, 170, Kings Lynn, outpointed Alex Romeo, 173, Leicester, referee Parris scoring 59-58 after six twos.

Ron Shinkwin, 141, Borehamwood, outpointed Dave Kettlewell, 141, Leeds, scoreline 59½-58½ after six twos.
(11-18-87)

▶**MIDDLESBOROUGH**—Marton Country Club—Ossie Maddix, 152, Manchester, stopped Neil Patterson, 153, Darlington, referee Arnold Bryson intervening at 1:57 of Round Six in a scheduled eight with Patterson under pressure. The latter had been down at the end of Round Four.

Mick Mason, 144, Craghead, outpointed Paul King, 152, Newcastle, referee Gerald Watson scoring it a narrow 59½-59 after six twos.

David Hindmarsh, 145, Newcastle, outpointed John Mullen, 144, Irvine, referee Watson casting it 60-58 after six, indicating that Hindmarsh hadn't lost a round.

Graham O'Malley, 126, Middlesbrough, stopped Carl Gaynor, 128, Manchester, referee Bryson calling a halt at 1:58 of Round One in a scheduled six twos after Gaynor was on the canvas from a right to the chin. The referee dispensed with the count to allow Gaynor medical attention.

▶**WISBECH**—Hudson Sports Centre—One of Britain's brightest prospects at any weight, **Nigel Benn**, 162, West Ham, kayoed Ian Chantler, 159, St. Helens, with a right to the chin in the opening round. It was timed at 16 seconds. This was Benn's eighth one-round win in his 11 victories, with a 100% record.

American Mike Jones, 215½, stopped James Oyebola, 220½, referee Ritchie Davies intervening at 2:46 of Round Two of a scheduled six after Oyebola had been down.

Gypsy Carmen, 192, Wisbech, outpointed Midlands light heavyweight champion Tommy Taylor, 185, Hednesford, referee Davies casting it 79-78 after eight twos. This reversed a previous defeat, but Taylor was unhappy with the verdict.

Oliver Henry, 143¾, Kings Lynn, outpointed Western Area light welter champ Frankie Lake, 144¾, referee Reg Thompson scoring it 59½-58 after six twos. Henry was down in Round One, and Lake was unhappy with the verdict.

Simon Lee, 151¾, Wisbech, beat Keith Scott, 152, Birmingham, who was disqualified by referee Thompson in Round Four of a scheduled six twos for "persistent holding."

Steve Taggart, 140½, Birmingham, kayoed Wayne Goult, 136½, Wisbech, at 1:08 of Round Two in a scheduled six twos. Referee, Thompson.

Mark (brother of Wayne) Goult, 125, kayoed Phil Lashley, 128½, Birmingham, at 1:35 of Round One in a scheduled six twos.

Debutant Calvin Hart, 174½, narrowly outpointed Darren McKenna, 175½, Alfreton, referee Thompson scoring it 39½-39 after four twos.
(11-24-87)

▶**HORWICH**—Leisure Centre—Carl Crook, 136½, Chorley, didn't lose a round in outpointing Marvin P. Gray, 139, referee Harry Warner scoring it 80-76½ after eight.

Peter (brother of Carl) Crook, 144½, also didn't lose a round in outpointing Eddie Collins, 149, Peterborough, referee Phil Cowsill casting it 60-58½ after six twos.

The Crook family missed the chance of a treble when brother Nigel's opponent Gordon Shaw failed to appear as there had been a car breakdown in making the trip from Scotland.

Sean Leighton, 160, Chorley, drew with Frankie Moro, 159, over six. Referee, Cowsill.

Tony Connellan, 144½, outpointed Frank Harrington, 144½, referee Cowsill scoring it 59½-58½ after six twos.

Paul Kennedy, 136, Consett, stopped Stephen Winstanley, 135, Chorley, referee Warner calling a halt at 1:14 of Round Three in a scheduled six twos when Winstanley had injuries by both eyes.
(11-26-87)

RON OLVER

ORIENT

INDONESIA

▶**GOR PULOSARI MALANG**—Monod, the Indonesian Commission's fifth-ranked junior featherweight, defeated Adam Suwaji by a unanimous decision in eight.

Bisenti Santoso, the IBC's top lightweight contender, knocked out Jack Murdi in the fifth round of a scheduled eight.

Eddy Sadaka, the number six featherweight, was a TKO victor over Marzuki in the second round of a scheduled six.

(11-8-87)

▶**PAMEKASAN, MADURA**—Nontice, the IBC's fourth-ranked flyweight, 110½, unanimously decisioned Sulasmanto, 112, in 10.

Susiadi, 105, won from Yulius Leojan, also 105, in a unanimous 10.

Boy Sugar Ray, 126, drew with Adam Suwaji, 125¼, in eight. The former didn't look as sweet as the real Sugar Ray.

Sugarray Ramchie, 116½, was also held to a draw by Hariadi, 115½, in six.

Susanto, 110½, won from Slamet, 112, in six.

Aries, 117, decisioned Djuari, 116, in six.

Little Baio (not Filipino Little Baguio), 105, won a unanimous nod from Ruby Batho, 104½, in six.

Cada Tabalubun, 105, took a decision from Rudy Tekad, 103¾, in six.

Promoter: Djoni Wijaya.

(11-14-87)

▶**JAKARTA**—Stardust Discoteque—Indonesian junior welterweight champ Bongguk Kendy was stopped by ex-OPBF lightweight titlist Jongjong Pacquing in the fourth round of a scheduled 10.

Bongguk, who had reigned locally since 1986, hit the deck in the third round and became bloody due to Jongjong's attacks. The Filipino nailed the Indonesian to the ropes and finished the affair.

Pacquing, 35-4-2, received $3,000 for this fight, while Bongguk got $600. The latter is now 7-5-1.

In a supporting 10, Nico Thomas, the Indonesian fourth-ranked mini-flyweight, scored an eighth-round kayo over Filipino Romy Austria in a scheduled 10. Nico is 5-3-1.

Promoter: Tinton Soeprapto.

(11-23-87)

▶**GOR BANDUNG**—Udin Baharudin kept his Indonesian junior flyweight throne, as he pounded out a split decision from Azadin Anhar in 12.

Scoring: referee Wijanadi and judge M. Yunus both 115-113 for Udin, and judge Johnny 117-113 for Azadin.

Azadin had previously been stopped by Jum-Hwan Choi, the IBF champion in the 108-pound class, in three rounds in Jakarta on August 6, 1987. Udin bettered his log to 15-1-1. Azadin fell to 6-5.

Promoter: Iwan D. Kartawijaya.

(11-28-87)

▶**PEKANBARU, RIAU**—Indonesian welterweight Robert Azumah, 142¼, acquired the vacant national title by a unanimous decision over Agus Wahab, 142¾, in 12.

Zulfren, 121½, was a unanimous points winner over Adam Suwadji, 123¾, in eight.

Bernard Papulain, 112¼, decisioned Oki Petrus, 111¾, in eight.

Promoter: Djabros Djabarin.

(12-5-87)

▶**MALANG**—Jim Suryaman, 105, pounded out a unanimous decision over Nana Suhana, 106, in eight.

Nurhuda, Indonesian junior featherweight champ and the WBC's 30th-ranked contender, 128, looked a little too heavy, but took a unanimous nod from Sambung, 125¾, in eight.

Budi Adiana, 135, outscored John Bonex, 135¼, in eight.

Promoter: Eddy Soebiantoro.

(12-5-87)

▶**SURABAYA**—Yossy Amnifu, the WBC's 27th-ranked super flyweight, 114½, defended his Indonesian throne by a unanimous decision over Sukardi, also 114½, in 12.

Pulo Sugarray, former WBC junior titlist in the super featherweight class, 134¾, proved too strong for Rudy Haryanto, 136½, copping a unanimous nod in 10.

Former OPBF junior featherweight champ Prayunsak Muangsurin, 123½, gave a lesson to Robby Rahangmetan, the IBC's top contender, 120½, in 10. Prayunsak is currently ranked 21st in the WBC's ratings.

John Arief, Indonesian mini-flyweight champ, 106, won from Johnny Pelor, 103, in eight.

Gil Roberto Santos, 126, was knocked out by Sambung, 125¾, in the sixth round of a scheduled eight.

John Jaya, 134¼, scored a six-round TKO over Harno, 135, in a scheduled eight.

Promoter: Eddy Pirrih.

(12-15-87)

▶**SURABAYA**—Azadin Anhar, the Indonesian Commission's second-ranked junior flyweight, 111¼, defeated Jimmy Suyono, 107½, in eight.

Indonesian mini-flyweight boss John Arief, 104¾, the WBC's 14th-ranked strawweight contender, lost an upset decision to Gim Suryaman, 104½, in eight.

Udiana, 160¼, scored a fourth-round TKO win over Thomas Jaya, 155½, in a scheduled eight.

Bisenti Santoso, 134, decisioned John Jaya, 132, in eight.

Ganitala, 128, won from Taurus Clay, 131, in eight.

Promoter: Eddy Pirrih.

(12-27-87)

▶**MALANG**—Azadin Anhar, the IBC's second-ranked junior flyweight, 112, outpointed Michael Arthur, also 112, in eight. The loser Arthur had fought Agus Souissa three months before, with the latter passing away due to a brain hemorrhage.

Yunus Tiran, 112, dropped Little Pono, the Indonesian top flyweight contender, 112, with a vicious left uppercut, and won a unanimous decision in eight. Pono had battled Little Baguio, a hard-hitting Filipino, in his quest for the WBC's international junior throne to be stopped in two onesided rounds in Jakarta on May 21, 1987.

Ryantoha, the Indonesian #3 bantie, appeared 12 pounds heavier than his ranked class at 130, but eked out a decision over Sambung, 129, in eight.

Husni Ray, 105, the gold medalist of amateur President's Cup in 1987, drew with John Ireng, 105, in six.

(1-5-88)

JOE KOIZUMI, P. SETIJADI LAKSONO & ABBAS PRABOWO

JAPAN

▶**HACHINOHE**—Hachinohe City Gymnasium—The OPBF (Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation) junior middleweight champ Carlos Elliot, 152¾, kept his throne via a well-received, but split decision over Korean titlist Sang-Do Chung, 153¾, in 12 heats.

Carlos outjabbed and outboxed the durable Korean all the way.

Scoring: referee Ukrit Sarasas (Thailand) 118-114, Elliot; judge Ken Morita 119-115, Elliot; and Dong-Kan Park 117-115, Chung.

Carlos, the WBA's seventh-ranked contender, is 17-1 with 15 kayoes. Chung fell to 12-4-3 with nine kayoes.

Ric Roberts, 137, decisioned Shigenori Motoi, 139, in six.

Kenichi Kimura, 111, knocked out Masaharu Fukuyama, 111¼, at 2:14 of the second round of a scheduled six.

Takayuki Uemura, 114½, ran his unbeaten log to 7-0 with four kayoes, stopping Toshio Nayuki, 115, at 0:33 of the sixth and final round.

Former amateur high school champ Kazuhiro Shimamoto, 111, scored his third win in as many pro outings by halting Masafumi Okawa, 111¼, at 1:12 of the second round in a scheduled four.

Promoter: Sadahiro Gonohe's Hachinohe Teiken Promotions.

(11-28-87)

▶**SHIZUOKA**—Shizuoka Industrial Arena—Lefty veteran Minoru Kujo, 139½, caught a 36-year-old soldier Takeshi Fukui, 140, disposing of him at 2:37 of the sixth round in a scheduled 10.

Kujo is 12-12 with six kayoes. Fukui, after a three-year layoff, fell to 7-15-2 with four KOs. What a main event!

(11-18-87)

▶**AMAGI CITY**—Kazuto Kurahachi, the JBC's third-ranked bantamweight, 119¾, pounded out a unanimous decision over Yoshio Kobayashi, 119, in eight.

Promoter: Chikiho Boxing Club.

(11-21-87)

▶**SAPPORO**—Nakajima Sports Center—Former Japanese junior lightweight champ Yoshimitsu Azato, 132, took a shutout decision from Korean titlist Byung-Yun Kim, 130¾, in 10 dull rounds.

Kim was penalized one point twice for his butting in rounds three and eight.

Azato failed to follow up and stop the shorter Kim within the distance. The winner is 21-6-1 with 12 kayoes. Kim impaired to 10-8-5 with just a knockout.

In a companion 10, Chan-Mok Park, a Korean speedster at 125¾, scored a lopsided decision over slower Japanese Kimio Saotome, 125½.

Park lacked convincing power, but gave a lesson to the awkward loser.

Promoter: Yoshiaki Akasaka's Sapporo Promotions.

(11-23-87)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Tadashi Shimabukuro, 118¾, exploded a wicked overhand right and flattened Shigenobu Nakamasa, 117½, at 2:50 of the fifth round in a scheduled 10.

Shimabukuro, now 15-2-1 with 10 kayoes, displayed his vaunted power. He will fight in his second quest for the Japanese title against Naoto Takahashi in an eliminator early next year. Nakamasa fell to 9-4-1 with seven knockouts.

Filipino Tiger (Ari) Asakura, 125¼, pounded out a shutout decision (double 100-94 and 99-96) over Masakatsu Sakuma, a durable infighter, 125¼, in 10. Tiger, 20, improved his log to 17-0 with seven kayoes.

Another Filipino prospect, Lion (Ari) Arikawa, 120¾, battled to a majority draw (96-96, 97-97 and 98-96 for Ari) with ex-Japanese bantamweight champ Mitsuo Imazato, 120¾, in 10 hot rounds.

Lion, in his previous visit here, had beaten the then Japanese featherweight champion Mitsuru Sugiya via an upset decision, but couldn't show his sharpness this night. Lion, 21, is 15-1-1 with six kayoes. Imazato, 26, is 22-11-1 with 12 knockouts.

Lion and Tiger, the sons of ex-Orient champ Oscar Reyes, will belong to Victory Gym of Japan and will campaign here.

Promoter: Tsutomu Asakura's Victory Promotions.

(11-26-87)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Japanese featherweight champion Mitsuru Sugiya, 125¼, kept his title by demolishing Yukihiro Kimura, 125¼, at 2:46 of the second round in a scheduled 10.

The muscular Sugiya overpowered the lanky challenger, dropping him twice in the second round. Referee Tezaki called a halt as Sugiya kept battering his groggy foe at will.

Sugiya, 23, is 23-3 with 17 knockouts. Kimura, 26, dropped to 9-4-1 with five kayoes.

Sugiya will face perennial top contender Kenji Iizumi early next year with his title at stake. It will be a sensational rematch of hard punchers.

In a supporting 10, Leopard Tamakuma, Japanese flyweight champ, 114, was floored by the roundhouse right of Elysser Baustista, a strong Filipino at 114, in the fourth round, but landed a barrage of punches and scored a TKO win at 1:58 of the seventh round.

Tamakura, a 5'8" lefty ranked sixth by the WBC, had a tough time coping with the determined attacks of the Filipino. Baustista had fought Kenji Matsumura in his quest for the OPBF flyweight throne and had shown his gameness and punching power though losing a decision.

Tamakuma came back with busy short combinations and weakened him effectively. He downed Bautista to the ropes for the compulsory eight count, and his follow-up caused referee Ken Morita to call a halt.

Leopard is 21-3 with eight kayoes. Bautista is 15-18-3 with 10 kayoes, but was much stronger than his record indicated.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions.

(11-30-87)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Having beaten previously undefeated prospect Naoto Takahashi last October, Chiaki Kobayashi, 119, relinquished his Japanese bantamweight throne and engaged in a tenner with Filipino Joseph Ladope, 117½, taking a unanimous decision.

He was awarded a shutout nod (double 100-96 and 100-95), but his performance was less spectacular. They repeated clinches and missed many punches. Kobayashi, 12-3 with four kayoes, must learn how to keep his distance. Ladope suffered his second setback in three fights here.

Hard-punching Shunichi Nakajima, the JBC's top junior bantamweight contender, 115, swarmed over Shinji Ozawa, also 115, and was awarded a TKO victory over the fading opponent at 0:51 of the sixth round in a scheduled 10.

Nakajima upped his log to 13-4 with eight kayoes.

Ozawa fell to 7-5 with five KOs.

Norikazu Kawana, 107¼, stopped Takeo Onishi, 107¼, at 1:04 of the third round in a supporting eight. Kawana, the JBC's third-ranked strawweight, is 5-4-1 with two KOs.

Promoter: Yonekura Promotions.

(12-1-87)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Seiji Tomari, 112, was befuddled by the occasional aggressiveness of Makoto Sawamura, also 112, but connected with body punches and knocked him out at 2:25 of the sixth session of a scheduled 10. Tomari, 22, is 15-3 with eight kayoes. Sawamura, 24, is 6-11-2 with six KOs.

Masami Okamura and Keizo Takahori, both 112, exchanged solid blows toe-to-toe without retreating with the former scoring a kayo at 2:12 of the eighth and final session. Okamura, former winner of the Novice King tourney, is 10-3 with four kayoes. Takahori, a year his junior at 21, impaired to 8-4-2 with four KOs. It was a really see-saw brawl.

Promoters: Shin-Nippon Saito & King Promotions.

(12-10-87)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Japanese middleweight champ Masaharu Owada, 160, showed a come-from-behind victory as he survived a bad first-round knockdown and disposed Takeshi Yamato, also 160, at 1:17 of the fifth round in a scheduled 10.

It was Owada's fifth defense since he dethroned Mugen Kawasaka in August of the previous year. Yamato's straight right was so sharp that the defending champ sat down on the ropes, being counted for the mandatory eight. Owada regained his usual zip and caught the less experienced challenger in the fatal round. Yamato hit the deck twice before referee Kumazaki declared a halt.

Masaharu, a son of a Japanese mother and an American black father, possesses good power punching, but his lantern jaw is vulnerable.

The semifinal watched Soichi Shimamura, 117½, take a unanimous decision from Katsunori Nagamoto, a durable trialhorse, also 117½, in 10. Shimamura is 7-1 with three kayoes. Nagamoto impaired to 11-12 with just a kayo.

Lanky Kazushige Shibuya, 124, displayed vicious left hooks and scored an upset kayo of Hisao Ishido, 123, at 2:38 of the fourth round in a scheduled eight.

Promoter: Kadoebi Jewel Promotions.

(12-14-87)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Hideyuki Ohashi, a 22-year-old hard puncher at 108, captured the Japanese junior flyweight throne as he pounded out a unanimous decision (all 99-96) over defending champ Tomohiro Kiyuna, also 108, in 10 hard-fought rounds.

Each had previously failed to win the world title — Kiyuna kayoed by the WBA champ Myung-Woo Yuh, and Ohashi stopped by the WBC kingpin Jung-Koo Chang. The champ often penetrated the challenger's peekaboo guard, but Ohashi scored stronger punches in the closing seconds of every session.

Ohashi is 8-2 with four kayoes. Kiyuna, the WBC's fourth-ranked 108-pounder, fell to 20-3 with eight KOs. The dethroned ex-champ, 25, made a complaint of the unanimous decision.

Masakatsu Sakuma, the JBC's sixth-ranked featherweight, 125¾, attempted to outbox rough-and-tumble Kimio Saotome, 126, but was held to a draw in 10. Sakuma, a busy campaigner, is 10-16-5 with five kayoes.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions.

(1-11-88)

▶**KAGOSHIMA**—Kagoshima Prefectural Gymnasium—Having been stopped by Mitsuru Sugiya in his quest for the Japanese featherweight title in his previous fight, lefty Yasuo Jinde, 130, lopsidedly halted Akira Chinen, 130½, at 1:55 of the fifth round in a scheduled eight.

Jinde, piloted by ex-Orient featherweight boss Mitsunori Seki, is 10-3-2 with nine kayoes.

Kenji Owato, a local favorite, 121, ran his unbeaten log to 7-0 with three knockouts by beating durable lefty Hirohito Yabuki, also 121, in eight.

Promoter: Fukuoka Teiken Promotions.

(12-19-87)

▶**OSAKA**—Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium—Yoshitatsu Nakazato, the JBC's fifth-ranked junior lightie, 135, bled in the third session, but caught Shoji Nishida, also 135, with a fine straight right and sank him for the count at 3:01 of the fifth session in a scheduled 10.

Nakasato, ex-winner of All Japan Shinjin-o (Novice King) tourney, is 14-2-1 with three kayoes. Nishida impaired to 6-4 with three KOs.

Promoter: Ozeki Maki Boxing Club & Green Tsuda Promotions.

(12-21-87)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Japanese welterweight champ Takao Sakamoto, 146½, retained his title in his first defense as he floored Tricky Kawaguchi, 146½, with a left jab and with a triple right uppercut, demolishing him at 2:24 of the third session in a scheduled 10.

Sakamoto, a slow but solid puncher, caught the elusive challenger with good lefts. Sakamoto, 22, is 5-1 with five kayoes since turning professional. Kawaguchi, 27, fell to 10-16-2 with four KOs.

Preliminary eight-rounders: Masayuki Takahashi, the JBC's second-ranked contender, 112, utilized his lefty style in stopping Yoshihiro Yamaguchi, 112, at 2:32 of the second session. Takahashi is 16-2 with seven kayoes.

Crasher (Toshimi) Miura, 121½, displayed superior power and disposed of Mitsunobu Goda, a slow starter at 121½, at 0:55 of the fifth round. Miura bettered his log to 12-3 with 10 kayoes. He looks promising, though his chin has not been tested yet. Goda is 9-2-1 with eight KOs.

Hitoshi Kamiyama, Japan's #4 welterweight contender, 147, landed roundhouse blows on Hideo Kanenami, also 147, stopping him at 0:52 of the sixth round.

Yasutaka Sakurai, the WBC's 27th light flyweight, 110, took a onesided nod over Kinya Nakamura, 110¼, in six. The winner is 6-2 with no KOs. He is a powder-puff puncher despite his technique.

Promoter: Nin-Nippon Kimura Promotions.

(12-24-87)

JOE KOIZUMI

KOREA

▶**ANSUNG**—Ansung Students Gymnasium—Korean bantamweight champ Chang-Kyun Oh, 117¼, retained his title by stopping Young-Il Choi, also 117¼, at 1:47 of the second round in a scheduled 10. Oh is 21-4-3 with 10 knockouts. Choi, 6-10-1 with three kayoes, looked overmatched against the champ.

Houn-Young Park, the Korean Commission's third-ranked featherweight, 127¾, was also a kayo victor over Sung-Hwan Moon, also 127¾, at 1:47 of the second round of a scheduled 10.

Park is 14-5-4 with three kayoes. Moon fell to 9-4-3 with four KOs.

Sang-Joo Park, Korean third-ranked welterweight, 146¼, drew with In-Sun Kim, 146½, in 10. Park is 6-2-1 with two KOs. Kim is 10-4-1 with seven knockouts.

(11-14-87)

▶**SEOUL**—Palpal Gymnasium—The OPBF welterweight champion **Young-Kil Chung**, the WBC's top contender, 148¼, made short work of Filipino Arman Pecar, also 148¼, stopping him at 2:28 of the fourth round in a non-title 10.

Chung dug strong shots to the midsection of Pecar and followed up with left and right hooks to the face and the Filipino hit the deck for the count.

Young-Kil, an upright stylist with heavy punches, improved his credentials to 24-3-2 with 16 kayoes. He is scheduled to challenge the winner of the Lloyd Honeyghan and Jorge Vaca rematch as the mandatory contender. Pecar fell to 6-3-1 with just a kayo.

Up-and-coming Yul-Woo Lee, the WBC's ninth-ranked flyweight, 114½, ran his unbeaten log to 12-0 with five kayoes as he banged out Filipino Arnulfo Melencion, 113, and disposed of him at 2:50 of the fourth round in the semifinal 10. Lee's left hook was a haymaker.

Melencion dropped to 10-4 with a knockout.

Promoter: Kukdong Promotions.

(11-14-87)

▶**CHUNGNAM**—Onyang Citizens Arena—Jin-Shik Kim, formerly IBF's top junior lightweight contender, 132, made a successful comeback after a 20-month layoff as he halted Filipino Luis Milado at 0:40 of the eighth round of a scheduled 10.

Kim didn't look as sharp as previously, but he dropped Milado with a barrage of punches in the second round and piled up points steadily. Jin-Shik overwhelmed Milado, and Luis turned his back to show his surrender in the fatal round. Choi is 20-2 with 18 kayoes. Milado fell to 30-22-4 with 13 knockouts.

Young-Duk Park, 122¾, won a unanimous decision over Ok-Ki Cho, 123½, in 10. Park raised his log to 18-1-3 with 12 kayoes. Cho is 6-10-2 with a kayo.

Promoter: Saeki Promotions.

(11-15-87)

▶**EIJOUNGBU**—Citizens Arena—Cho-Woon Park, former OPBF junior flyweight champ ranked fourth by the WBA, 113½, relinquished his throne to outgrow the class and defeated Filipino Joseph Galagaran, also 113½, by a unanimous decision (double 99-92 and 99-95) in 10.

Park was stalking the switch-hitter all the way. He showed he was too scrappy and busy for the loser. Park, 19-2-3 with five kayoes, is scheduled to have a crack at Kenji Matusmura's OPBF flyweight crown in February.

Chong-Hak Lee, 136¾, lost to Wan-Taek Choi, 135¾, in disqualification midway in a scheduled 10. The round where the stoppage was declared was unreported.

Choi is 16-7-2 with nine kayoes. Lee, the KBC's fifth-ranked lightie, is 20-7-5 with four KOs.

(11-21-87)

▶**JAECHON**—Jaechon Gymnasium—**Sang-Ho Lee**, the WBA's second-ranked junior welterweight contender, 143¼, proved too fast and sharp for Japanese Yoshifumi Kitajima, 144, scoring a TKO win at 1:40 of the seventh round in a scheduled 10.

Lee is a fleet-footed boxer with fast counterpunching unlike common Korean infighters. He dropped Kitajima with a smashing left hook in the fifth round, and his superior combos made the loser's cornerman toss in the towel in Round Seven. Lee is 45-1 with 38 knockouts. Kitajima fell to 8-4-2 with two kayoes.

Oh-Kong Son, the WBC's 10th-ranked flyweight, 114½, landed a wicked body shot to ex-Japanese junior flyweight champ Tetsumi (Takeshita) Matsushima, 114¼, and sunk him for the count at 2:22 of the second round of a scheduled 10.

Son is 25-3 with 11 knockouts. Matsushima impaired to 13-6-1 with 10 kayoes.

Promoter: Wonjin Promotions.

(11-28-87)

▶**KWANGJU**—Kwangju Indoor Gymnasium—Fast-rising Sung-Kil Moon, 116¾, extended his unbeaten log to 4-0 with as many knockouts by demolishing Thai top contender Tepratun Eakchatchingchai, 116, at 2:25 of the second round in a scheduled 10.

Sung-Kil was former World Cup tourney winner, who was scouted for the amount of some $150,000 by Palpal Promotions. Moon had beaten Orient top-notchers to enter the WBA's top 10. Sung-Kil whipped the game Thai with a flurry of punches, and dropped him thrice for an automatic stoppage.

Tepratun, lately ranked in the WBC's top 30 due to his string of kayoes, suffered his first kayo loss and fell to 19-2 with 15 KOs.

In the semifinal 12, Yong-Kang Kim, 108, became the new OPBF flyweight champion as he outboxed Thai champ Pat Ohyuthanakorn, also 108, and sank him with a well-timed shot at 1:08 of the 10th round. Kim upped his log to 15-0 with seven knockouts. Ohyuthanakorn is 20-5. Yong-Kang is currently ranked ninth by the WBC.

Promoter: Palpal Promotions.

(12-11-87)

▶**TAEJON**—Chungmu Gymnasium—Jung-Koo Chang, 107½, retained his title for the 14th time by taking a close but unanimous decision over Mexican Isidro Perez, also 107½, in 12.

Yul-Woo Lee, 113¼, registered an impressive knockout over ex-WBC world light flyweight champ Amado Ursua, 112½, at 1:40 of the fifth round in a scheduled 10. Yul-Woo showed his power and speed, which proved too much for the fading veteran.

Bong-Chun Park, 134¼, kept his Korean lightweight throne by beating Sung-Woon Song, the top contender at 134½, in 10. Park is 10-9-7 with two kayoes. Song fell to 12-2 with two KOs.

Promoter: Kukdong Promotions.

(12-13-87)

▶**NOTES: Jung-Koo Chang's** 14th defense of his WBC light flyweight crown is not only the new record in the 108-pound class, but also the record in the Orient. **Gabriel Flash Elorde** kept his world junior lightweight crown 10 times, and **Yoko Gushiken** retained his WBA junior flyweight throne 13 times. Chang's record will not be beaten by any Oriental fighter for awhile.

▶**CHINJU**—Chungbok Gymnasium—Lanky boxer Chun Huh, 117½, acquired the OPBF bantamweight crown as he came off the canvas in the first round and earned a split decision from Filipino **Ernie Cataluna,** 118, in 12 frames.

The defending champ was a furious southpaw, who exploded a solid left to the face and floored the Korean challenger. Cataluna was pressing the action, while Huh boxed on his hit-and-run tactics. The sixth saw a low blow of Cataluna drop Huh for awhile, and the referee took a point from the champ. From the seventh round on the 5'8" Korean used his fast jab and footwork, piling up points to overcome the early deficits.

Scoring: referee Chul-Hee Han (Korea) 117-113, Huh; Hwan-Soo Yuh (Korea) 116-113, Huh; Eduardo Velasco (Philippines) 117-114, Cataluna.

Huh, the WBC's 19th-ranked 118-pounder, is 21-1 with 14 kayoes. Cataluna, 26-4-7 with nine knockouts, suffered a couple of defeats in a row, following a kayo by Kelvin Seabrooks in his quest for the IBF throne.

Promoter: Ilhwa Promotions.

(12-19-87)

▶**SEOUL**—Munhwa Gymnasium—Former OPBF (Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation) welterweight champ Jun-Sok Hwang, 156¼, moved up to the middleweight division after being dethroned by Seung-Soon Lee last year and halted Japanese Kenji Kubo, 155¼, at 1:22 of the eighth session in a scheduled 10.

Kubo fought well by keeping his distance, but the free-swinging Hwang eventually caught him and sent him to the deck in Round Seven. In the fatal session the Korean banger dropped Kubo again, and the latter's cornerman tossed in the towel to save him from further punishment.

Hwang, who had previously beaten Pipino Cuevas in Los Angeles years ago, is 36-4 with 24 kayoes. Kubo fell to 4-6-1 with three KOs.

Former IBF flyweight boss Chong-Kwan Chung, 119¼, showed his ring experience in stopping Houn-Duk Chung, 120½, at 1:10 of the fifth round in the semifinal 10. Chung is 14-10-4 with five kayoes. The loser is 9-5-2 with five KOs.

Promoter: Dong-A Promotions.

(12-20-87)

▶**PYONGTAK**—Pyongtak High School Gymnasium—Having been stopped by unknown Rico Velasquez in Los Angeles, Chil-Sung Chun, 136¾, engaged in a comeback go and decisioned Indonesian lightweight champ Juhari, 135½, in 10.

Chun is 9-1 with six knockouts. Juhari is 20-4-4 with nine KOs.

Bi-Wun Chung, the IBF's third-ranked flyweight, 113¾, disposed of Thai top contender Rithchai Lukmingkwan, 113½, at 1:46 of the eighth session in the semifinal 10. Chung is 24-5-2 with eight kayoes. Rithchai is 19-6 with seven KOs.

The first tenner saw Sang-Ju Park, 146¾, seize the vacant Korean welterweight crown by decisioning Chan-Soo Kim, 146¼, in 10.

Promoter: Palpal Promotions.

(12-20-87)

▶**EUJONGBU**—Eujongbu City Arena—Korean mini-flyweight champion Sam-Joong Lee, 106, won a very lopsided decision from Ded Donjadee, also 106, in 10. People wondered why Ded's cornermen wouldn't toss in the towel. Lee, the WBA's seventh-ranked 105-pounder, is 14-2 with three KOs. The Thai loser is 9-11 with eight kayoes.

The semifinal saw Soo-Ik Park, 129, take the Korean junior lightweight crown by beating Hoon Sung, 130, on points in a 10-round eliminator. Park, formerly an amateur star, is 4-0 with two kayoes. Sung is 8-2 with six knockouts.

In the first 10, Hee-Young Choi, 107, ran his unbeaten log to 3-0 with a kayo as he outpointed In-Kyu Hwang, 106¾.

Promoter: Hyundai Promotions.

(12-27-87)

JOE KOIZUMI &
YOO-CHANG KIM

PHILIPPINES

▶**IMELDA, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR**—Jun Placencia, 128, was held to a unanimous draw by Randy Rodrigo, also 128, in 10. Young Fily refereed.

Pat Bracero, 116, took a unanimous decision over Lito Balcita, 117, in 10.

Promoter: Roberto Rodrigo.

(11-6-87)

▶**CALOOCAN CITY**—Rudy Cabiles, 127½, overcame the solid blows of Gilbert George, the Filipino top featherweight contender, 126½, to win a split decision in 10. Ver Abainza refereed.

Gary Malines, 135, scored an upset TKO win over Bert Lozano, the GAB's number six lightie, also 135, in 0:51 of the 10th and final session as the former knocked the latter through the ropes and referee Vic Valdez declared a halt.

Diego Lebante, the Filipino second-ranked junior lightie, 131, and Jun Tito, 129, fought eight rounds, but then the lights extinguished for almost one hour. The fight was declared no decision as Jun had already left the arena when the lights were restored and the GAB tried to make them fight the last two sessions.

Amado Cabato, 127, was awarded a majority decision over Boy Granciosa, 126, in 10.

Emil Romano, 113½, won from Boy Selda, 112½, in 10.

Promoter: Tomsa Pamilosa.

(11-7-87)

▶**BAGUIO CITY**—BCF Gym—Max Forrosuelo, the Filipino ninth-ranked junior flyweight, 104, took a technical decision over Rex Rapiso, 110, in the sixth session of a scheduled 10. R.M. Chan refereed.

Mario Aliguin, 115, was also a winner by a sixth-round technical decision over Tony Agalatiw, 120, in a scheduled fight.

Promoter: Lorenzo Pilando.

(11-7-87)

▶**TABON, BISLIG, SURIGAO DEL SUR**—Elson Duran, the Filipino #8 miniflyweight contender, 109, chalked up an eighth-round TKO win over Ruben Enot, also 109, in a scheduled 10.

Anthony Rendez, 107, was awarded a majority nod over Dan Mapalad, 108, in 10.

Dick Carlos, 106, TKO'd Charlie Canas, also 106, in the fifth session of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Rogelio Lopez.

(11-7-87)

▶**QUEZON CITY**—Araneta Coliseum—Flash Emmanuel, 121½, successfully kept his Filipino junior featherweight throne as he pounded out a shutout decision (120-110, 120-109 and 120-107) over Erwin Joe Guevarra, 120, in 12. Onesided as it was, the champ suffered two big cuts from accidental butts in rounds five and eight. It was a gory affair.

Ademar Amad, the top junior flyweight contender, 112½, was befuddled by the roundhouse and unorthodox style of Romeo Opriasa, 112½, losing an upset decision in 10.

Louie Ilago, 134½, unanimously decisioned Jun Padayogyog, 137, in 10.

Filipino featherweight champ Jojo Cayson, 128, showed a bit more accurate blows in taking a split duke over Lion Collins Chavez, 127, in 10.

Promoter: Uniform, Inc.

(11-14-87)

▶**BENGUET**—Boy Abuela, 135, outscored Junior Danglose, 139, in 10. Ray Ming Chan refereed.

Tarjon Miro, 114½, won from Steve Ponan, 110, in six.

Promoter: Ignacio Dagiwa.

(11-20-87)

▶**QUEZON CITY**—Aberdeen Court—Busy campaigner John Matienza, 121, earned a split decision over Mario Meracap, 121½, in 10. Tom Evaristo refereed.

Joseph Saljob, 114, won from Mario Aliguin, 112½, in 10.

Promoter: Claudio Petalbo.

(11-21-87)

▶**BAGUIO CITY**—Baguio College Foundation's Gym—Free-swinging Bert Pucay, 126½, registered a fine TKO win over Fighting Malatag, 125, at 2:50 of the fourth round in a scheduled 10. Vic Valdez refereed.

Ramon Wasi, 127, decisioned Gerson Brago, 127, in 10.

Bernabe Aliping, 132, stopped Pio Boy Kaki, 133, at 0:10 of the eighth stanza in a scheduled 10.

Steve Nerza, 123, won a unanimous nod from Andy Dumpayan, 121, in 10.

Promoter: Raffy Panagan.

(11-21-87)

▶**LANAO DEL NORTE**—Jun Placencia, the Filipino number three junior lightie, 128, outpointed Alex Masecampo, 129, in 10.

Promoter: Roberto Rodrigo.

(11-21-87)

▶**CEBU**—Cebu Coliseum—Flash Ursus, 132½, the GAB's #7 junior lightie, impressively halted Vic Subiza, 131, at 2:31 of the eighth session in a scheduled 10 as the loser's second, Carl Penalosa, jumped into the ring and demanded a stoppage to referee Luciano Babierra.

Boy Dignos, 108, took a unanimous decision over Ross Canedo, 113, in 10.

Fidel Ymbong, 119, stopped Romeo Panilagao, 118½, at 1:46 of the third session of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Christopher Aranco.

(11-21-87)

▶**TOLEDO, LUTOPAN, CEBU**—Arman Ramos, 125½, attacked Ner Bindondo, 124½, into submission in the ninth round of a scheduled 10.

Erwin Guerrero, 130¾, was also a TKO victor over Tony Labrador, 130¾, in the eighth session of a 10.

Promoter: Ben Sun.

(11-20-87)

▶**PARANAQUE, METRO MANILA**—Elorde Sports Complex—Joe Hiyas, the WBC's international super bantamweight champion, 124½, engaged in a non-title tenner and stopped Bert Baco, 121½, at 2:54 of the opening session.

Hiyas exploded a smashing right uppercut to the taller opponent and dropped him to the deck. Baco barely regained his feet, but referee Tom Evaristo called a halt as he was staggering across the ring on rubbery legs.

Mac Espanola, 121, won a unanimous decision over Jun Gavero, 122, in 10.

Cobra Ali Blanca, 118, decisioned Billy Endrena, 119, in 10.

Momong Manaay, 131, won over Albert Saxon, 130, in 10.

Roger de Rama, 108, impressively knocked out Jun Tighanon, 106½, at 2:30 of the second session of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Laura S. Elorde.

(11-25-87)

▶**SOUTH COTABATO**—Filipino junior lightweight champion Lulu Villaverde, 130, displayed his ring experience in halting Allan Baring, also 130, in the third round of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Cecilia Pagaran.

(11-25-87)

▶**BANSALAN, DAVAO DEL SUR**—Nestor Pagaran, 118, was held to a majority draw by Ronnie Ablan, 118, in 10.

Joel Revilla, 108, also drew with Rey Betsalda, 108, in 10.

Promoter: Teofilo Perote.

(11-26-87)

▶**MUSUAN, BUKIDNON**—Al Balaba, 119, gained a unanimous decision over Alvin Salud, 122, in 10.

Francis Velasquez, 126, fought to a split draw with Gerom Magallanes, 126, in 10.

Jun Torregosa, 116, was awarded a technical decision from Brecs Sumatra, 116, in the seventh round in a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Neptali Bokingo.

(11-27-87)

▶**MANILA**—Ramada Hotel—Ariel Duran, 131½, landed a well-timed right uppercut to Japanese Hirofumi Minami, 132, dropped him for the compulsory eight count and stopped the latter after his second visit to the canvas at 1:54 of the fifth session of a scheduled 10.

Former OPBF junior lightweight champ Rod Sequenan, 140, showed his scrappy lefty bombardments and defeated less experienced Ryoichi Sueyoshi, 140, by a unanimous decision.

Al Mariano, 118, and Japan's Hiroshi Morozumi, 117, fought to a split draw in 10.

Promoter: Rufino Balbin.

(11-27-87)

▶**GENERAL SANTOS CITY**—Dadoy Andujar, the Filipino second-ranked junior bantamweight contender, 118, managed to win a split duke over Loremer Pontino, 120, in 10.

Ex-Filipino champ Ruben dela Cruz, 118, was also awarded a split verdict over Rey Paciones, 117, in 10.

Promoter: Navidad.

(11-28-87)

▶**MANILA**—Gold City Coliseum—Jun Edward, 117, won a unanimous decision over Pat Bracero, 116, in 10.

Terry Felisilda, 109, outpointed Roger Gamayod, 108, in 10.

Promoter: Carlos Almirante.

(11-28-87)

▶**SURIGAO CITY**—Elsun Duran, 108, took a unanimous nod from Joselito Castro, 109, in 10.

Dick Carlos III, 105, was given a majority nod over Anthony Rendeza, 105, in 10.

Boy Esgartin, 136, won over Ben Sarte, 138, in 10.

Promoter: Rogelio Lopez.

(11-28-87)

▶**TAGUM, DAVAO**—Rolando Protacio, 107, and Triffon Torralba, 112, battled to a split draw in 10.

Boy Romero, 140, the GAB's second-ranked junior welterweight contender, TKO'd Jun Bautista, also 140, in the 10th and final round.

Nick Ampong, 120¾, decisioned Elmer Cubillas, also 120¾, in 10.

Boy Ligas, 130, won from Bimbon Canaya, also 130, in 10.

Promoter: Eusebio Almario.

(11-29-87)

▶**VALENCIA, BUKIDNON**—Jongjong Perez, the Filipino ninth-ranked miniflyweight contender, 107, defeated Ruben Emilia, 108, by a unanimous decision in 10.

Roger Victra, 114, won from Young Rey, 113, in 10.

Pepe Simblante, 118, TKO'd Danny Lumanog, 118, in the sixth session of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Ramon Siaty.

(11-29-87)

▶**MOLAVE, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR**—Rod Naiconi, 112, was rendered a technical decision over Felix Mantos, 111, in the seventh canto in a scheduled 10.
Promoter: Rey Yabut.
(11-29-87)
▶**MAMBAJAO, CAMIGUIN PROVINCE**—Boy Gonzales, 120, decisioned Erning Tincy, 120, in 10.
Bonnie Ballentos, 122, fought Kid Cella, 122, to a technical draw in the fourth round of a scheduled eight.
Promoter: Roy Pacuribet.
(11-29-87)
▶**MARAMAG, BUKIDNON**—Jun Ramos, 146, scored a TKO victory over Dario Melida, 148, in the ninth round of a scheduled 10.
Loloc Elloren, 108, drew with Rex Caling, 108, in 10.
Promoter: B. Hilario.
(11-30-87)
▶**MISAMIS ORIENTAL**—Rey Balaba, 138, pounded out a unanimous decision over Fred Ganzon, 138, in 10.
Promoter: Joseph Denosta.
(11-30-87)

JOE KOIZUMI

THAILAND

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—In a daytime card, Mahalap Singchatchaval, a hard puncher coming from Muay-Thai (national kick-boxing) game, 106, knocked out Rungsanan Saknarin, also 106, in the second minute of the first round in a scheduled six.
Promoter Col. Banju Onsangkoon is backing Mahalap, who entered the TBC's top 10 thanks to this victory.
In a night card, Theerapong Sorphumiphak, the WBC's #30 super bantamweight contender, 122, disposed of Prasopchok Thaiyasaka, also 122, in the second round of a scheduled six. Theerapong is a lefty with a record of 4-0 including three kayoes.
(11-1-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Derntup Mortemchamnan, the TBC's fourth-ranked mini-flyweight contender, 110, stopped Saksit Srirachamahanakorn, an unknown opponent, 114, in the third round of a scheduled six.
(11-2-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Chokchaijeev Naphataya, Thai number six junior flyweight contender, 108, utilized his lefty style, puzzled Sianchai Kiatsonthaya, 107, and halted him in the second session of a scheduled six.
(11-3-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Den Chuvatana, 116, scored his second win in the international style game as he took a unanimous decision from Kwanjai Sorpengphis, the TBC's top-ranked junior flyweight contender, 113, in six. Den had a long career as a Muay-Thai battler, and he beat national flyweight boss Petchainat Donjadee in his non-title pro debut.
(11-5-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Thai junior featherweight champ Downmai Sithkodom, 126, engaged in a tuneup go prior to his rumored crack at Jeff Fenech's WBC throne and demolished Lastravan Suksavas, 124, in the third round of a scheduled 10. Downmai is 22-3 with 14 kayoes.
(11-7-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Kajkong Danthoothai, the TBC's #7 mini-flyweight, easily caught and stopped Negernduan Kiatkriengkrai, 111, in the second stanza of a scheduled six.
(11-8-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Sombutr Euasampan, 116, responded to an offer of a rematch from Chan Sithcharnsak, 116, and scored a TKO win in the fourth round in a scheduled six. Sombutr had been awarded a split verdict in their first encounter. The winner is 11-6 with six KOs.
(11-11-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Superby Eakvat (this is his ring name), 132, scored his easiest victory as his opponent Somdech P. Ongart, also 132, missed a big right cross and downed himself, never to get up until being counted out by the referee in the first minute of the opening round in a scheduled six. The crowd burst into laughter.
The loser had suffered three consecutive kayoes (all in the first round).
(11-14-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Theerapong Sorphumiphak, a busy campaigner, 125, suffered an upset knockout at the hand of unheralded Rerngrop Kruthavuth, 124, in the fifth canto of a scheduled six.
His right cross was a haymaker.
(11-17-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—After an eight-month layoff, Saksing Singkrungthon, 122, appeared in the ring again and showed his experience in icing Fahkaew Harnravee, 122, in the third session of a scheduled six.
(11-18-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Den Sorthanikul, 104, was an 8-1 underdog against Mahalap Singchatchval, 104, but the former scored a come-from-behind victory in the fourth round of a scheduled six.
Mahalap sent Den to the canvas for the mandatory eight count in the first round, and tried to finish the latter. But Den, in the fatal session, landed a countering right and turned the tables.
Den is 8-0-1 with five kayoes.
(11-19-87)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—In a daytime card on TV Channel 7, Narongthavat Nabamroong, formerly rated highly in the TBC's flyweight ratings, 114, made a fine comeback and won a unanimous decision over Jomphichit Kiatthavatchai, 112, in six.
In a night card, Chokchaijeev Naphataya, 108, opened a bad gash on Jomyuth Sithseemok, 110, in the fifth round and was awarded a TKO win in a scheduled six. The loser's cut was five inches in width.
(11-21-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Samuth Sithnaruephon, the OPBF mini-flyweight champ, 106, defeated Pronmongkol Hormahachai, the TBC's second-ranked junior bantie, also 106, in a six-round rematch.
The loser had to reduce six pounds, which also reduced his energy. He suffered two setbacks to Samuth. The winner is 29-11-1 with 15 KOs.
(11-26-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Chalow Muangsurin, Lumpinee Stadium's bantamweight champ, 119, scored a unanimous decision over Yuenyong Sithprasong, a flyweight puncher, 118, in six.
Chalow is 18-4 with eight kayoes.
(11-27-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Champ Kiatpetch (this is his ring name, though he is not a champ yet), 114, ran his unbeaten log to 7-0 with five kayoes by stopping Indo Donjadee, 114, in the third round of a scheduled six.
Kiatpetch belongs to the Chitalada Camp.
(11-28-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Tuksin Muangsurin, 106, a 29-year-old making a comeback, kayoed Sakchai Srirachamahanakorn, 106, in the third session of a scheduled six.
(11-29-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—In a daytime card, Ded Donjadee, the TBC's top mini-flyweight contender, 106, chalked up a TKO win over Songphol Sithboonchu, 105, in the second round of a scheduled six.
In a night card on TV Channel 5, Thunjai (Kiatthavatchai) Donjadee, 112, the third-ranked junior flyweight of the TBC, easily stopped Kaopongnoi S. Thaveerat, 114, in the second session of a scheduled six.
Kaopongnoi can be called the "Bum of the Year" as he suffered six kayo losses and another defeat on points during 1987. He hasn't scored any wins in three years.
(11-30-87)
▶**CHACHEONGSAO PROVINCE**—Former WBC super bantamweight champion **Samart Payakarun**, 132, halted Japanese puncher Hogan Noguchi at the end of the eighth round of a scheduled 10. Samart bettered his log to 15-1 with nine kayoes.
(11-8-87)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Former OPBF (Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation) flyweight champ Thanomsak Sithboabay, the WBC's 10th-ranked super flyweight, scored an important victory over ex-WBC world titlist **Frank Cedeno** in 10 hard-fought rounds.
It was total war. Thanomsak, a tall upright stylist, dominated the second to fourth rounds with his sharp straight rights and uppercuts. Cedeno, a hard-punching lefty who had dethroned Charlie Magri in England years ago, was in command in the next three sessions. Close as it was, a hairline decision was rendered to Thanomsak. The victor is 18-1 with nine kayoes.
Kaokor Galaxy, the WBA's top bantamweight contender, easily stopped Do-Bok Cha, Korean #1 bantie, in the second session of a scheduled 10. Kaokor is the elder twin brother of the current WBA junior bantamweight **Kaosai Galaxy.** The loser had scored an upset kayo of ex-OPBF bantam kingpin Ki-Yul Kang in the latter's comeback go (after dethroned by Ernie Cataluna) last July. But Cha proved no match for the powerful southpaw.
(12-14-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Thongberm Vongvianyai, the Thai Commission's third-ranked lightweight, needed less than a round to dispose of Vila Kaatsontaya in a scheduled six.
(12-4-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Chor Haphalang, the WBC's international junior champ in the super featherweight division, stopped ex-Thai bantamweight titlist Chor Sirirat in the fourth canto of a scheduled six.
Chor bettered his log to 14-3 with 14 knockouts.
(12-5-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Downmai Sithkodom, Thai junior featherweight champ ranked 19th by the WBC, proved too strong for Rungded Thatakorn in the second round of a scheduled six. Downmai is 23-3 with 15 kayoes.
(12-6-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Downrung Technicutaradit, the TBC's second-ranked flyweight, easily stopped Tapepitack Sornuchadauring in the third session of a scheduled six. The winner raised his log to 13-3 with eight KOs.
(12-5-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Chan Rungrojana, Thai lightweight champ, didn't break a sweat as he polished off Bunrun Ruad-Ayuthaya in the opening session of a scheduled six.
(12-8-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Thamin Sithseemork, the national junior bantamweight kingpin, halted Rakchai Kiatsonthaya in the fifth round of a scheduled six.
Thami is 13-5 with five kayoes.
(12-15-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Sombutr Euasampan, the TBC's top bantamweight contender, scored a second-round knockout of Monkonchai Sithchaitorn in a scheduled six.
Sombutr is 12-6 with seven kayoes.
(12-17-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Thai mini-flyweight champ Trang Tor Bunlerd, the WBC's sixth-ranked strawweight contender, surprisingly lost his national throne as Kajkong Danphoothai, the TBC's fifth-ranked challenger, won a decision in 10.
Kajkong is still unbeaten with a 5-0 record, including three kayoes. Trang, 11-3-1 with four kayoes, will be dropped out of the world ratings.
(12-23-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—Busy campaigner Chan Rungrojana, Thai lightweight boss, extended his good record to 21-3 with 19 kayoes by stopping Sended Siswichai in the second round of a scheduled six.
Chan is called "Thai Tyson" as he is such a hard puncher.
(12-24-87)
▶**BANGKOK**—The OPBF mini-flyweight champion Samuth Sithnaruepol, the WBC's second-ranked contender, showed his strength in keeping his title by a fine kayo of Den Sorthanikul in the seventh session of a scheduled 12.
Samuth, a lanky boxer, caught the challenger, dropping him in the first round and twice more in the fatal session. The winner bettered his credentials to 30-10-1 with 16 kayoes. Den suffered his first setback and dropped to 8-1-1 with five KOs.
(12-31-87)

JOE KOIZUMI

PAN PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND

▶**ACACIA RIDGE**—Hotel—Eric Gutteridge, 129¾, knocked out Scott Baker, 127¾, for the vacant Queensland state junior lightweight title.
Gutteridge wore down Baker, cooking him in Round Four when referee Alan Moore rescued Baker after two standing counts.

Dave Chaffey, 150, knocked out Damon Ryan, 152¼, in the final frame of a scheduled four.

The remainder of the card consisted of bouts slated for three rounds each.

Flash Gordon, 127¾, knocked out Steve Bensley, 124½, in two.

Greg Perkins, 170¾, knocked out Paul Wakefield, 170¾, in the first.

Greg Verrills, 150, decisioned Domenic Illuzzi, 152¼.

Jeff Hardman, 166½, drew with Gary Robinson, 173¾.

Promoters: Ed Francis & Noel Kelly.
(12-14-87)

▶**SURFERS PARADISE**—Centre Theatre—Kevin Johnson, 118, outpointed Neil Garland, 118, for the vacant Queensland state bantam bauble.

Dennis Moore scored 99-94 and Shaun Stewart saw it 98-94 for Johnson, but Steve Scott carded 97-96 for Garland.

Guy Parker outpointed Stewart Hartley over 10 in a middleweight contest. Though Parker won clearly, it was a good bout and the fans responded with a large shower of money.

In an eight-rounder, 17-year-old heavyweight prospect Craig Petersen outpointed light heavyweight Hape Mann.

Billy Jacobs knocked out George Kamarinos in the first of a scheduled three-round heavyweight bout.

John Frenchman, who previously boxed as John Christoff, outpointed Snowy Saunders in a three-round lightweight bout.

Promoters: Barry Michael & Mark Eriksen.
(12-16-87)

NEW SOUTH WALES

▶**MT. PRITCHARD**—Community Club—Terry Roberts, 140¼, outpointed Robbie Newton, 145½, after 10 crowd-pleasing rounds which saw the fans shower the ring with money at the conclusion.

Alex Tui, 155½, stopped Johnny Taupau Jr., 155¾, in the sixth and final round.

Apollo Sweet, 186½, outpointed Young Louis, who boxed previously as Moli Kaufusi, over six. Louis weighed 190½.

Three four-rounders completed the action.

Johnny Herbert, 135, outpointed The Maltese Falcon, 142½.

Mick Langanke, 164¾, outscored Scott Symons, 156.

Joe Gatt, 138¾, decisioned Louis Armenis, 133½.

Promoter: Frank Axisa.
(12-16-87)

▶**DAPTO**—Leagues Club—Australian junior welterweight champ Pat Leglise, 146¾, had no trouble with Fijian Kini Nabiki, 145¾, in a scheduled 10.

Leglise ended it in Round Four when referee John Cauchi tolled the dismal decimal over Nabiki.

Roland Stamplair, 175¼, won an eight-round decision over Wally Keaster, 189½.

Vito Gaudioso, 159¾, outscored Robbie Nwakpa, 162, over six.
(12-18-87)

▶**EDENSOR PARK**—Tomaslav Croatian Club—Renato Cornett, 127¾, easily outpointed veteran Kirk Blair, 133¼, over 10 rounds.

The fight was not bad to watch, though it was one-sided.

Upcoming Richard Reilly, 123½, convincingly outpointed Queensland-based New Zealand southpaw Peter Warren, 124½, over 10.

In a terrific fight, one of the best of the year, Errol Oluko, 137¾, stopped Neil Higgins, 143¼, in the fifth of a scheduled six. Higgins was worn out at the finish and referee Brian McMahon rescued him.

Adam Schachter, 145½, won a four-round decision over Jacque Henrisson, 137¾.

Promoter: Tony Cornett.
(12-19-87)

▶**NOTES:** Undoubtedly, Australia's Fighter of the Year for 1987 was **Jeff Fenech**. Fenech entered the year as IBF bantamweight champion, relinquished that crown, won the Australian featherweight title, then KO'd previously unbeaten **Samart Payakarun** in Round Four to take the WBC super bantam bauble, Payakarun, ashamed of being beaten, joined a monasterry, but has since given up being a monk and has returned to training. Fenech made two successful defenses of his WBC title, halting **Greg Richardson** in Round Five and receiving a technical points win over **Carlos Zarate** when the bout was halted at the end of Round Four because of a cut on Fenech's cheekbone. The cut was the result of a Zarate butt, and Fenech was ahead, 40-34, on each scorecard and was crowned the winner. Fenech

WORLD RATINGS
BY THE WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION
(As of January, 1988)

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Mike Tyson (US)
1. Frank Bruno (England)
2. Tony Tubbs (US)
3. Tyrell Biggs (US)
4. Pinklon Thomas (US)
5. Trevor Berbick (Canada)
6. Francesco Damiani (Italy)
7. Jose Ribalta (US)
8. Tim Witherspoon (US)
9. Adilson Rodriguez (Brazil)
10. Razor Ruddock (Canada)

JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Evander Holyfield (US)
1. Sammy Reeson (England)
2. Jose Burlon (Uruguay)
3. Bert Cooper (US)
4. Toufik Balbouli (France)
5. Michael Greer (US)
6. Patrick Lumumba (Uganda)
7. Dwight Qawi (US)
8. Ossie Ocasio (Puerto Rico)
9. Sherman Griffin (US)
10. Glenn McCrory (England)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Virgil Hill (US)
1. Jean-Marie Emebe (Cameroon)
2. Tony Willis (US)
3. Leslie Stewart (Trinidad)
4. Tom Collins (England)
5. Juan Roldan (Argentina)
6. Ramzi Hassan (US)
7. Bobby Czyz (US)
8. Joe Lasisi (Nigeria)
9. Rufino Angulo (France)
10. Willie Featherstone (Canada)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Chong-Pal Park (Korea)
1. Fulgencio Obelmejias (Venezuela)
2. Lindell Holmes (US)
3. Vincent Boulware (US)
4. Victor Cordova (Panama)
5. Chris Reid (US)
6. Polly Paseiron (Indonesia)
7. Jae-Ok Kim (Korea)
8. Jay Strickland (US)
9. Frank Minton (US)
10. Wang-Sup Lee (Korea)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Sumbu Kalambay (Italy)
1. Mike McCallum (Jamaica)
2. Marvin Hagler (US)
3. Herol Graham (England)
4. Michael Nunn (US)
5. Michael Olajide (Canada)
6. Roberto Duran (Panama)
7. Iran Barkley (US)
8. Doug DeWitt (US)
9. In-Chul Baek (Korea)
10. Troy Darrell (Bermuda)

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Julian Jackson (Virgin Islands)
1. Buster Drayton (US)
2. Donald Curry (US)
3. Darrin Van Horn (US)
4. Duane Thomas (US)
5. Lupe Aquino (Mexico)
6. Carlos Elliot (Japan)
7. Milton McCrory (US)
8. Carlos Santana (Puerto Rico)
9. Reyes Cruz (Dominican Republic)
10. Robert Hines (US)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion
Marlon Starling (US)
1. Tomas Molinares (Colombia)
2. Yung-Kil Chung (Korea)
3. Mark Breland (US)
4. Tyrone Trice (US)
5. Maurice Blocker (US)
6. Danny Garcia (Puerto Rico)
7. Lloyd Honeyghan (England)
8. Fujio Ozaki (Japan)
9. Rollin Williams (US)
10. Tommy Ayers (US)

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion
Juan Martin Coggi (Argentina)
1. Frankie Warren (US)
2. Sang-Ho Lee (Korea)
3. Meldrick Taylor (US)
4. Harold Brazier (US)
5. James McGirt (US)
6. Akinobu Hiranaka (Japan)
7. Tsuyoshi Hamada (Japan)
8. Ronnie Shields (US)
9. Kyung-Duk Ahn (Korea)
10. Engles Pedroza (Venezuela)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Julio Cesar Chavez (Mexico)
1. Rodolfo Aguilar (Panama)
2. Pernell Whitaker (US)
3. John Duplessis (US)
4. Edwin Rosario (Puerto Rico)
5. Primo Ramos (Mexico)
6. Terrence Alli (Guyana)
7. Juan Nazario (Puerto Rico)
8. Mauricio Aceves (Mexico)
9. Rafael Pineda (Colombia)
10. Livingstone Bramble (US)

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Brian Mitchell (South Africa)
1. Jose Rivera (Puerto Rico)
2. Mario Martinez (Mexico)
3. Mario Miranda (Colombia)
4. Harold Knight (US)
5. Tyrone Jackson (US)
6. Jean-Baptiste Mendy (France)
7. Lupe Suarez (US)
8. Jim McDonnell (England)
9. Jackie Beard (US)
10. Francisco Tomas Cruz (Brazil)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Antonio Esparragoza (Venezuela)
1. Jose Marmolejos (Panama)
2. Calvin Grove (U.S.)
3. Victor Callejas (Puerto Rico)
4. Valerio Nati (Italy)
5. Hector Lopez (Mexico)
6. Marcos Villasana (Mexico)
7. Tyrone Downes (Barbados)
8. Maurizio Stecca (Italy)
9. Jean-Marc Renard (Belgium)
10. Paseual Aranda (U.S.)

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Julio Gervacio (Dominican Republic)
1. Bernardo Pinango (Venezuela)
2. James Pipps (U.S.)
3. Louie Espinoza (U.S.)
4. Jose Sanabria (Venezuela)
5. Tommy Valoy (Dominican Republic)
6. Daniel Zaragoza (Mexico)
7. Loris Stecca (Italy)
8. Luis Mendoza (Colombia)
9. Mark Horikoshi (Japan)
10. Pedro Decima (Argentina)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Wilfredo Vasquez (Puerto Rico)
1. Kaokor Galaxy (Thailand)
2. Cardenio Ulloa (Chile)
3. Raul Perez (Mexico)
4. Takuya Muguruma (Japan)
5. Frankie Duarte (U.S.)
6. Edgar Monserrat (Panama)
7. Lucio Lopez (Argentina)
8. Hurley Snead (U.S.)
9. Cesar Salas (Venezuela)
10. Lucilo Nolasco (Dominican Republic)

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Kaosai Galaxy (Thailand)
1. Kong Payakaroon (Thailand)
2. Alberto Castro (Colombia)
3. Kiyoshi Hatanaka (Japan)
4. Santos Laciar (Argentina)
5. Gilberto Roman (Mexico)
6. Thanomsak Sithbaobay (Thailand)
7. Byung-Kwan Chung (Korea)
8. Sung-Kil Moon (Korea)
9. Chiaki Kobayashi (Japan)
10. Agapito Gomez (Spain)

FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Fidel Bassa (Colombia)
1. Hilario Zapata (Panama)
2. Miguel Mercedes (Dominican Republic)
3. Duke McKenzie (England)
4. Paul Gonzales (US)
5. Orlando Canizales (US)
6. Dave McAuley (Ireland)
7. Adrian Roman (Argentina)
8. Kenji Matsumura (Japan)
9. Yul-Woo Lee (Korea)
10. Leopard Tamakuma (Japan)

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Myung-Woo Yuh (Korea)
1. Jose DeJesus (Puerto Rico)
2. Mario Demarco (Argentina)
3. Tomohiro Kiyuna (Japan)
4. Cho-Woon Park (Korea)
5. Wilibaldo Salazar (Mexico)
6. Humberto Gonzalez (Mexico)
7. Rodolfo Blanco (Colombia)
8. Francisco Tejedor (Colombia)
9. Carlos Orobio (Panama)
10. Ysaias Zamudio (US)

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2. Leo Gamez (Venezuela)
3. Tony DeLuca (US)
4. Samuth Sithnaruepol (Thailand)
5. Benedicto Murillo (Panama)
6. Kenji Yokosawa (Japan)
7. Sam-Joong Lee (Korea)
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followed with a non-title win over Osmar Avila, the WBC's No. 10-ranked featherweight, who was counted out in 56 seconds . . . Fight of the Year? There were two. In Melbourne, Wilf Gentzen won the Australian and Commonwealth titles from fellow-Aussie Brian Janssen on a majority decision, one judge carding a draw. At Goulburn, Peter Mitrevski drew with Alan Whitten for the vacant Australian junior bantamweight title, two judges scoring it even, the third voting for Mitrevski. Coincidentally, these two great ring battles took place just one night apart in August . . . Overall figures were down for the year, 1987 seeing just 78 promotions, the lowest number for any year in this century! In 1986, there were 98 promotions. Going back to 1970, there were 378 promotions. Quite a difference!

RAY MITCHELL

NEW ZEALAND

▶**AUCKLAND**—Glenfield Leisure Centre—Fossie Schmidt has traveled the world and met the best, but he came undone in a scheduled eight-rounder against New Zealand's Lindsey "Bonecrusher" Christiansen, who looked sharp and punched crisply to dominate his opponent.

Schmidt, 208, was dropped for a count of eight in Round Two and was floundering around the ring early in the third stanza when referee Eddie Manuela raised Christiansen's hand.

Christiansen, 215¼, has fought five times, winning all five by knockout.

Toss Lelei, 163, appeared decidedly unlucky to drop a unanimous decision to Tony Renata in a six-rounder. It was a hard-hitting battle with both being warned to cease their chatter as they endeavored to entice each other.

James Higgens, 180, earned the wrath of referee Ali Afakasi for a couple of rule infringements in the opening round of his contest against Lafaele Saiete, 189¼. But Higgens had the last word in Round Two, pounding his way to a TKO victory.

Matthew Johnson, 159¼, boxed smartly for the opening round of his bout against Graeme Durbin, 152, but the latter quickly found the range in Round Two, felling Johnson twice for eight counts. When Durbin scored a third knockdown, referee Johnny Hanks halted the match and declared him a winner by TKO.

Monty Bhana, 156¼, used his superior experience to smartly outbox tentative Paul Baker, 158½, for a unanimous decision over six rounds. Referee, Manuela.

In another six-rounder, newcomer Fred Taliafoa, 166½, showed a bit more initiative to gain a unanimous decision over Maaula Ala, 170, in a hard-hitting encounter. Referee, Hanks.

Julian Williams, 168, towered over gutsy Temua Anae, 170, but Anae continually took the action to his taller foe. Though there was little to choose between them at the finish, Williams' better technical skill enabled him to snatch a six-round unanimous nod.

Promoter: Justin Higgens.

Attendance: 800.

(12-3-87)

JOHNNY HANKS

AFRICA

NIGERIA

▶**IBADAN**—Local **Bash Ali** knocked out Australia's Kevin Wagstaff in the first round to retain his WBC international cruiserweight title.

About 1,000 showed up for the fight, which was held in a stadium that holds 60,000.

(12-5-87)

SOUTH AFRICA

▶**NEW BRIGHTON**—South African junior welterweight champion Phumzile Madikane retained his title on a second-round technical knockout over Julius Mnwana in a scheduled 12-rounder.

The referee stepped in to stop the fight after Mnwana had been dropped for the third time.

In an exciting fight over six rounds, Fundile Ngalo outpointed Dannyboy Mngxilo in the featherweight division.

(10-18-87)

▶**SPRINGS**—Charles Oosthuizen, the South African junior middleweight champion, socred an eight-round TKO over Irish junior middleweight champion Terry Magee in a scheduled 10.

The 24-year-old Oosthuizen, boxing his first match against an overseas opponent, dominated with two-handed attacks to the head and body. In the eighth, Magee succumbed to the constant pressure as referee Alfred Bugwana stepped in to stop the fight.

The victory left Oosthuizen 17-3-2.

In a supporting six, Gideon Strydom came undone when he was stopped in the second round by Matthias Mbatha in a middleweight match.

(11-1-87)

▶**DURBAN**—Sipho Mathonsi became the new Natal junior lightweight champion when he stopped John Ndela in the sixth round.

After surviving a nine-count in the first round, Mathonsi did well to come back and win the fight.

(11-2-87)

▶**KAGISO**—Charles Peters got back on the winning trail with a hard-earned, six-round decision over tough Gordon Mlotshwa.

Peters was always the stronger and there was no doubt who was the winner after the action-packed bout.

In another six, Shorne Moorcroft showed good form with some neat boxing to outpoint capable Christian Sithebe in the lightweight division.

(11-6-87)

▶**ELDORADO PARK**—Local favorite Quinton Ryan caused an upset when he beat Frank Khonkhobe on a split decision over 12 rounds to win the South African junior lightweight title.

Ryan took the fight to his older and more experienced opponent from the first bell, and Khonkhobe couldn't find an answer to Ryan's bobbing and weaving tactics.

Hope Guliwe was rather disappointing, losing a six-round decision to Gerald Isaacs, the former South African featherweight champion, at the lightweight limit.

(11-10-87)

▶**CAPE TOWN**—South African lightweight champion Nika Khumalo scored a first-round knockout over Luvuyo Kakaza to retain his title.

Khumalo threw combinations from the first bell and after 58 seconds one of those combinations dropped Kakaza for the full count.

With this victory being his third successful defense, Khumalo became the proud holder of the Old Buck championship belt.

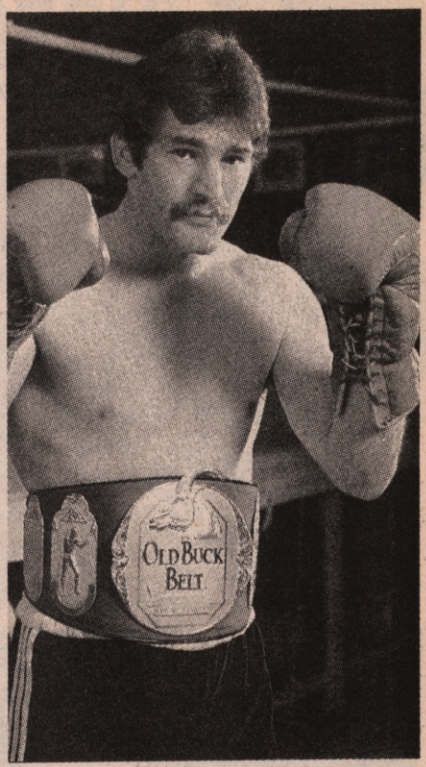
(11-15-87)

▶**SPRINGS**—Thulane "Sugarboy" Malinga was only 1:02 away from regaining the South African light heavyweight title when he was disqualified in the 12th round of his match with Sakkie Horn for hitting low.

Going in to the last round, all Malinga had to do to regain the title was to stay on his feet, though he had lost points in earlier rounds for low blows.

In a supporting bout, Freddy Rafferty, ranked 15th in the junior heavyweight division by the Universal Boxing Association, wasted no time in winning a second-round stoppage against Weaver Qwabe in a heavyweight contest.

(11-21-87)



Despite his poor showing against Mark Breland last year, South Africa's Harold Volbrecht continues to fight on after 12 years in the pro ring. In his most recent start, Volbrecht knocked out Philemon Ayesu on the Weaver vs. du Plooy card in Johannesburg.

▶**JOHANNESBURG**—American **Mike Weaver** upheld his reputation as a destroyer of young hopefuls when he beat South African heavyweight **Johnny du Plooy** on a technical knockout in the seventh round.

Du Plooy was forced to retire at the start of the seventh with a damaged left hand, leaving him his first loss in 18 fights.

When du Plooy retired in his corner, Weaver was comfortably ahead on points and the South African would have needed a miracle to pull out the win.

Harold Volbrecht, the South African welterweight champion, gave a workmanlike performance in knocking out Philemon Ayesu in the seventh round.

Fransie Badenhorst beat a game Frazer Ndzandze on a TKO in the fourth of a bantamweight contest.

(11-28-87)

▶**DURBAN**—Olvin Mthembu retained the Natal featherweight title when he decisioned Elias Ncgobo in a bitter 10-round battle.

Mthembu edged out a close decision due to his stronger and more powerful punches in the middle rounds.

(12-7-87)

▶**DURBAN**—A crowd of 1,500 saw Sakkie Horn, the South African light heavyweight champion, score a clear 10-round decision over Belgium's Yves Monsier.

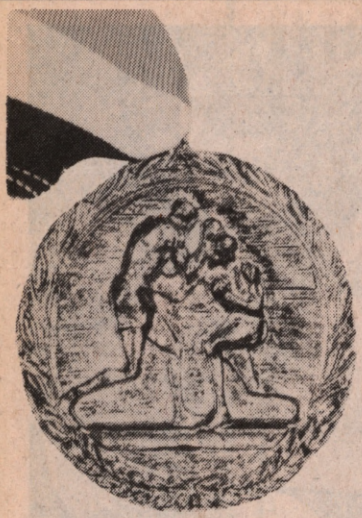
The overseas visitor lacked skill and punching power and Horn was an easy winner, though he made hard work of it. At times the bout developed into an untidy mauling affair with neither producing anything out of the ordinary.

Freddy Rafferty was rather unlucky to lose a close, split decision to Manfred Jassmann from Germany over 10 rounds in a heavyweight contest. Jassmann was the busier of the two and appeared to be on top, but Rafferty was landing the cleaner punches. In the end it was the German's counter attacks and aggression that influenced the judges.

Dingaan Thobela, young lightweight prospect, scored a clear six-round points win over Cagey Elijah Gele. Thobela has now won eight straight since joining the professional ranks.

(12-18-87)

RON JACKSON



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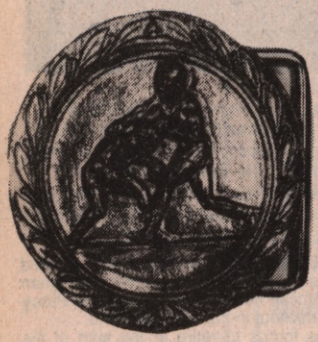

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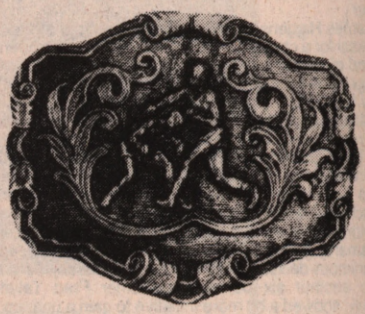

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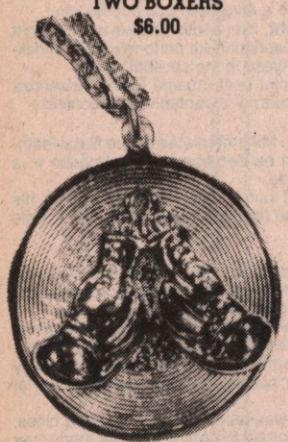

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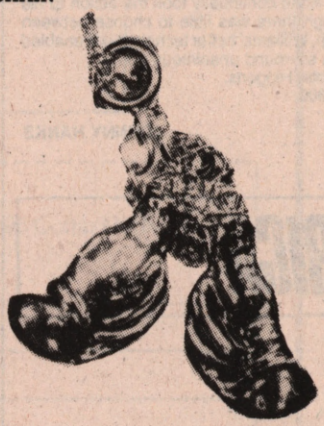

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WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Mike Tyson TKO4 Larry Holmes
(Retained WBC & WBA Titles)
Francesco Damiani TKO4 Dorcey Gaymon
Michael Dokes TKO7 Ken Lakusta
Carlos DeLeon W12 Jose Flores
(Retained WBC Cruiserweight Title)
George Foreman KO1 Tom Trimm
Mike Williams TKO2 Leon Dixon
Michael Greer TKO4 Keith Allen
Sammy Scaff TKO4 Burt Hayes
Spencer Chavis W10 Paul Madison
Walter Masseroni KO3 Daniel Guibaudo
James Pritchard TKO5 Bruce Johnson
Adilson Rodrigues W10 Alfredo Evangelista
Manfred Jassmann W10 Freddy Rafferty
Carl Williams KO1 Rodney Frazier

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Sakkie Horn W10 Yves Monsier
Frankie Swindell W10 Arthel Lawhorn

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Davey Hilton Jr. W10 Hector Rosario
John Mugabi KO2 Bryan Grant
Jack Callahan TKO5 Larry Mayes
Terry Norris KO1 Roman Nunez
Jorge Castro W10 Sergio Ronconi
Jun-Suk Hwang TKO8 Kenji Kubo
Chris Tiozzo KO3 Carlos Tite
Pierre Joly W12 Miguel Angel
Guy Parker W10 Stewart Hatley
Doug DeWitt D10 Ron Essett

WELTERWEIGHTS

Kyung-Dok Ahn W10 Ruben Rabago
Frankie Warren KO1 Brian Davenport
Dwayne Swift KO3 Fudail Rezzaq
Mauricio Rodriguez W10 Danny Vargas
Howard Davis Jr. TKO9 Ali Karim Muhammad
Tyrone Crawley W10 Angel Rodriguez
Vincent Pettway W10 Horace Shufford
John Meekins TKO2 Othal Dixon
Mickey Ward TKO1 Joey Ferrell
Roger Mayweather TKO7 Marvin Garris
Luis Santana TKO11 Shawn O'Sullivan
Harold Brazier TKO4 Willie Ray
Vincent Releford W10 Ronnie Shields
Vinny Burgese W10 D.J. Turner
Miguel Arroyo KO4 Cesar Perez
Adolfo Rossi W10 Jorge Martinez
Takao Sakamoto KO3 Tricky Kawaguchi
Sang-Ju Park W10 Chan-Soo Kim
Terry Roberts W10 Robbie Newton
Pat Leglise KO4 Kini Nabiki
Dexter Smith KO2 Joe Manley

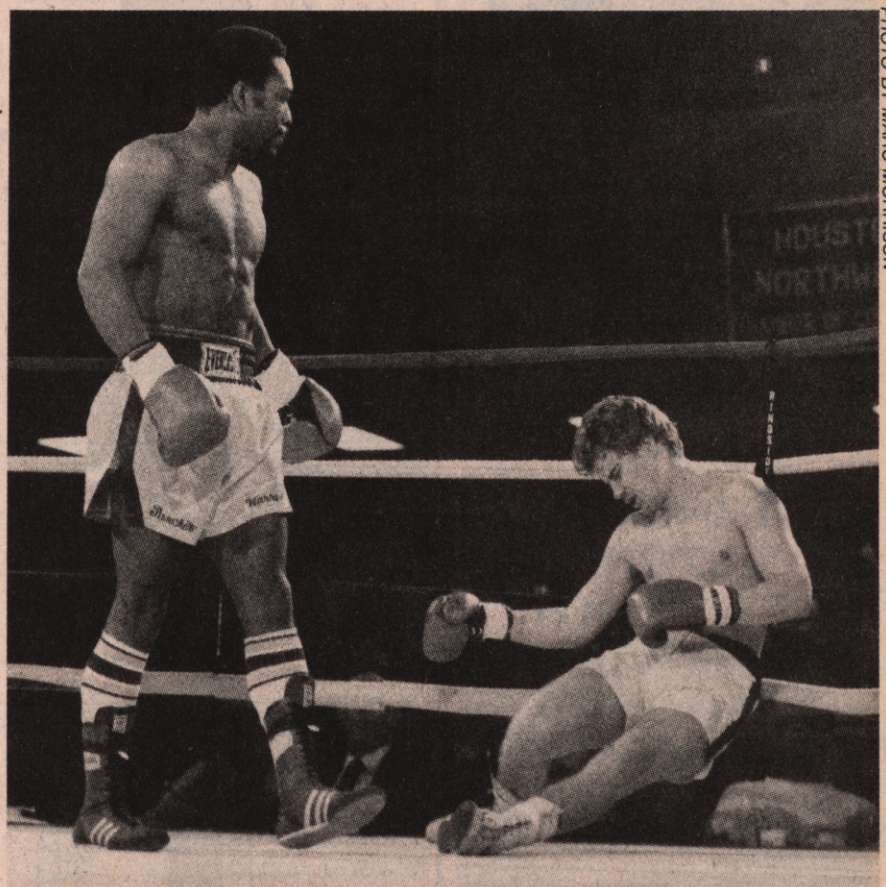


PHOTO BY MARC MORRISON

Frankie "Panchito" Warren warmed up for his scheduled bout with Buddy McGirt for the vacant IBF junior welterweight title by scoring an easy one-round kayo over Brian Davenport in Houston.

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Lupe Miranda W10 Dana Roston
Gert Bo Jacobsen KO4 Herbie Bivalacqua
Ramon Gatica D10 Raul Bianco
Yoshitatsu Nakazato KO5 Shoji Nishida
Chil-Sung Chun W10 Juhari
Yasuo Jinde TKO5 Akira Chinen
Renato Cornett W10 Kirk Blair
Vernon Buchanan KO3 Rico Velasquez
Vincente Gonzalez W10 Kenny Wyatt

FEATHERWEIGHTS

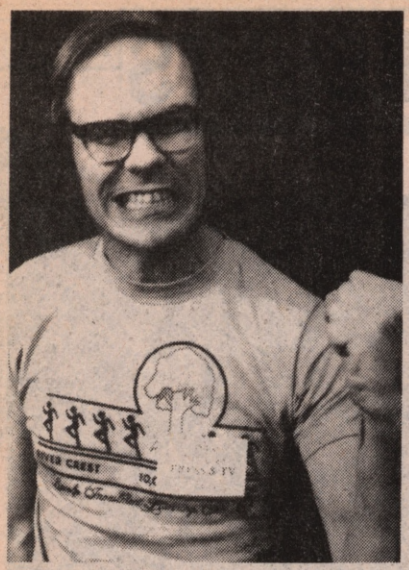
Seung-Hoon Lee W12 Jose Sanabria
(Retained IBF Jr. Featherweight Title)
Sung-Ho Shin W10 Si-Il Kim
Calvin Grove TKO4 Antonio Rivera
(Won IBF Title)
Miguel Francia W10 Fidel Avila
Chong-Kwan Chung TKO5 Houn-Duk Chang
Richard Reilly W10 Peter Warren
Masakatsu Sakuma D10 Kimio Saotome

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Wilfredo Vasquez D12 Takuya Muguruma
(Retained WBA Title)
Hurley Snead W10 Julio Blanco
Renaldo Carter W10 Tim Silva
Santos Laciar W10 Jose Narvaez
Lucio Lopez TKO6 Alejandro Montes
Chun Huh W12 Ernie Cataluna
Kevin Johnson W10 Neil Garland

FLYWEIGHTS

Sot Chitalada TKO9 Hideaki Kamishiro
(Retained World Championship)
Leo Gamez W12 Bong-Jun Kim
(Won WBA Minimumweight Title)
Yun-Un Chin W10 Romeo Opriasa
Hideyuki Ohashi W10 Tomohiro Kiyuna
Hiroki Ioka TKO12 Kyung-Yung Lee
(Retained WBC Strawweight Title)
Samuth Sithnaruepol KO7 Den Sorthanikul
Kajkong Danphoothai W10 Trang Tor Bunlerd



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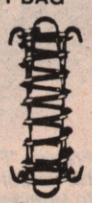

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FOR RICH GIACHETTI
Trainer

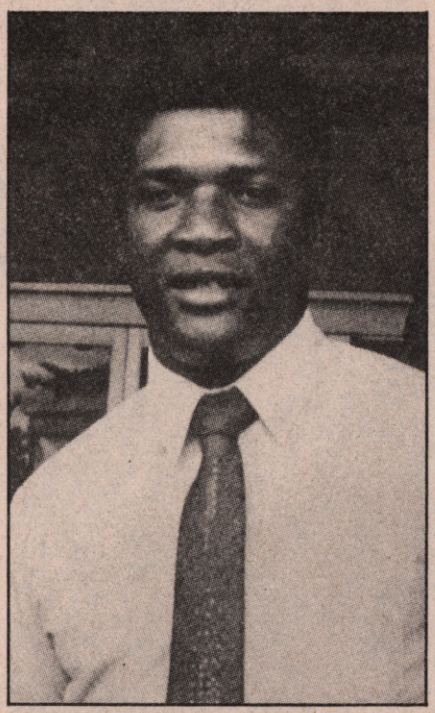
Q: What is the secret to being a successful trainer?
T.F.H., DURHAM, N.H.

A: Most important is that you communicate with your fighter. You have to know him in and out, work with him, party with him, understand him. You have to be a good teacher and know how to get across what you're trying to show him. You have to know strategy. You have to know all the judges and referees, and you have to show good will to all the media. It's not always the big things, but the little things which make a difference.

FOR DONNY LALONDE
WBC light heavy titleholder

Q: Is there any truth to the rumor you were ill leading up to your fight with Eddie Davis? You did so well, it's hard to believe.
T.K., VANCOUVER, CANADA

A: I had a fever, diarrhea, everything. I was so weak at times I wondered if maybe I shouldn't fight. But I was feeling much better by the morning of the fight.



FOR TREVOR BERBICK
Former WBC heavyweight titleholder

Q: I read you want another crack at Mike Tyson. Are you crazy or what?
E.J., TORONTO, CANADA

A: That wasn't the real me in the last fight. I'm telling you it's true. I'll be ready if we ever fight again. I'm ready right now.

FOR RENALDO SNIPES
Heavyweight

Q: You're 32 years old, how far do you think you can go at this late stage in the game?
D.Q., WESTCHESTER, N.Y.

A: My goal is to be the heavyweight champion of the world, and I'm probably the only one in the division other than Tyson who can knock someone out with one punch.

FOR GLENN MC CRORY
Commonwealth Cruiserweight Champ

Q: What is it like working as a sparring partner for Mike Tyson?
C.B., ANNFIELD PLAIN, ENGLAND

A: It's tough. When you're scrapping with Mike Tyson you don't think more than 24 hours ahead. There are some nights when you just lie in bed thinking: 'What am I doing here?' But I was delighted when I was asked to work with him. In a way, it's the ultimate thing you can do in boxing.

FOR BONECRUSHER SMITH
Former WBA heavyweight boss

Q: Now that you've retired, what do you think about Mike Tyson and your fight with him?
P.B., NEW YORK CITY

A: I should have thrown all caution to the wind, but I just didn't do it. I don't know why. Tyson is exceptionally quick. He's on you so fast. He doesn't give you time to set up anything and he throws punches in combinations. The pressure, that's the thing. He seems in great physical condition, which is how he can continue the pressure every fight.

IN THIS CORNER

by Phill Marder

DAVE BONTEMPO (Writer & TV Analyst)

AS A KID, DAVE BONTEMPO FANTASIZED about broadcasting baseball games involving the Mets and hockey games featuring the Rangers.

As an adult, he instead finds himself dissecting the fine points of a George Foreman comeback or a Terrence Alli decision for a nationwide ESPN television audience.

Where did he go wrong?

"When I got out of college in 1978, the choices in broadcasting were small market or major network, there was nothing in between," said the latest addition to ESPN's crack team of boxing broadcasters. "The first thing that opened was a writing job."

Having worked on his high school and college radio stations, Bontempo wasn't thrilled with the prospect of starting a career in the print media. But he had experience writing as well and a guy's gotta' eat, right?

So off he went, covering high school sports and all the other good stuff one gets to write about for local newspapers.

"I never thought I would get back into broadcasting, but I did think I might write for ESPN," said Bontempo.

It wasn't a pipedream. Bontempo quickly moved to a staff position at the *Atlantic City Press*, a job he continues to hold despite his blossoming career as an announcer. At the *Press*, Bontempo continued writing mainly high school sports until the opening of Resorts International, which instantly put the shore resort on the map as a hotbed of boxing.

"Here was a beat right in my backyard that I could develop," recalled Bontempo, who had the foresight to grab a good thing when he saw it. "At first, they made me do it and for almost six months I hated it because I couldn't follow it. Every other sport was structured. Six months later I loved it so much I had to fight to keep my beat. It was like having the Phillies in my backyard. It was like having my own candy store down here."

The Atlantic City fight scene grew rapidly, with Bontempo right smack dab in the middle of things. It didn't take long for him to make a reputation, which led to some important contacts.

"Al Bernstein is a journalist, too, and he noticed my work," said Bontempo. "He had a show called 'Ringside Review' and he had me on, and the show went great."

About a year later, Bernstein was unable to do an ESPN show. Guess who got the call? And another. And another.

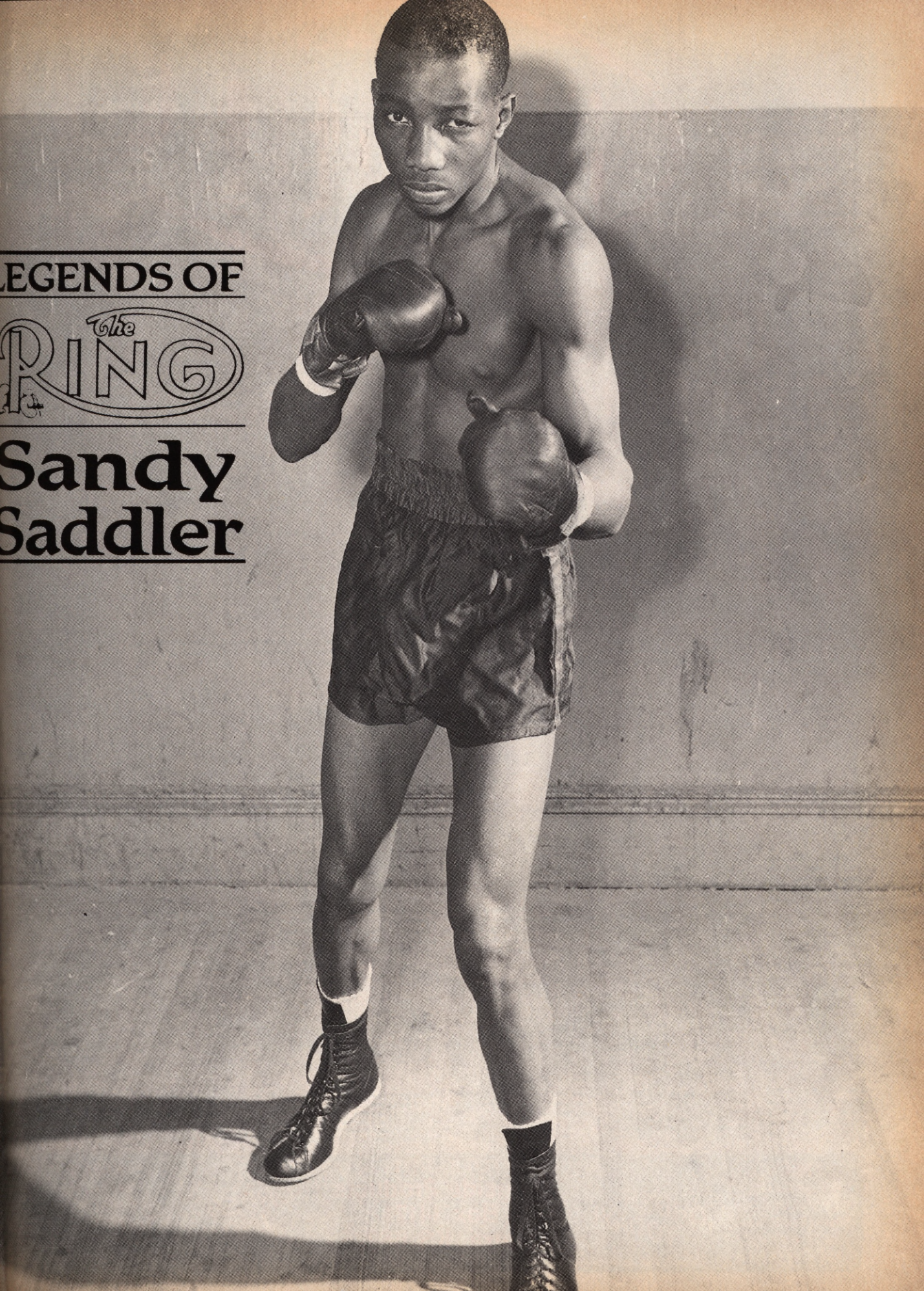
Though rough around the edges, Bontempo was an immediate plus for ESPN. But more importantly, he has gotten better and better as he has become more relaxed, letting his humor, which is notorious, emerge.

"Broadcasting attitudes have changed," said Bontempo. "You were trained to be mechanical. Everyone was supposed to have the same deep voice. They didn't stop to consider personality means a lot."

Bernstein, no slouch at finding the right comment for the right moment, has found himself the victim of Bontempo's wit on occasion. One night ESPN had both Bernstein and Bontempo scoring a fight. After seven rounds, Bernstein had it 66-66. Bontempo had it 67-67.

Bontempo cracked to Bernstein, "67-67 gives a far more indicative picture of this fight than does 66-66. What fight are you watching?"

At 31, Bontempo has a bright future. Perhaps he will remain with ESPN, perhaps he will move on to more lucrative pastures. Whichever road he chooses, you can be sure you will be seeing a lot more of Dave Bontempo as the years go by. □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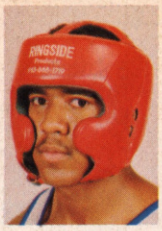

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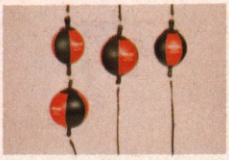

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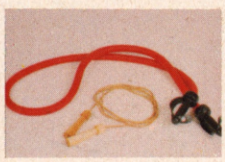

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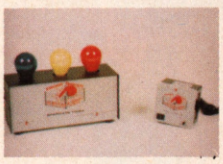

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